

The plight of youth

Explosion of anger feared

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Increasing homelessness among teenagers is alarming social agencies worried about inner-city lawlessness and the possible recurrence of riots.

"We are beginning to see frustration among young people," said Mr Nicholas Fenton, director of Centrepoint in Soho, London, which provides emergency night shelter. "That is why you are going to see more crime. They are going to steal to get money to survive."

Last year, Centrepoint had 12,100 requests for admission, compared with 8,700 in 1978.

The concern is corroborated in a report this week by Mr Stewart Lansley, chairman of Lambeth Borough Council's community affairs committee.

He says that unemployment in Lambeth now exceeds 15,000, compared with 13,926 in April, the time of the riot.

A report yesterday by a working party of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro) confirms the trend. Not only is there increasing homelessness among the young, but it is occurring at an early age.

The report says that Threshold, a housing aid centre in south London, experienced a 150 per cent increase in the referral rate last year to a figure of three or four homeless people a day. It is estimated that 10,000 to 15-year-olds are discharged from care each year.

Among the homeless, the 16 to 18 age group is increasing in size; 91 of 231 referrals to short-stay accommodation in Liverpool in 1980-81 were 16 and 17-year-olds.

There are disproportionate numbers of homeless young people from the ethnic minorities, the Nacro report says.

The overlap between young people who have been in care and are offenders and are homeless is shown by a survey of receptions at a remand centre in the West Midlands. Of 500 young people between the ages of 14 and 20 who were received, 46 per cent said they had been in care.

One third of the young adults incarcerated in institutions are either at risk of being homeless or are literally so, according to probation officers.

The Nacro report quotes a depressing pattern observed by social workers. A young person becomes homeless; if he is not already unemployed he soon becomes so; as he is of no fixed abode, he has to sign on every day, that prevents him from finding work and for accommodation; financial necessity or boredom perhaps leads him to steal food; he is caught and comes before the court; because he is of no fixed abode, he receives a custodial sentence; he faces accommodation problems on discharge; and the vicious cycle continues.

Nacro's report calls on the Department of the Environment to create a short-term fund to help to establish local housing services for the young.

Mr Peter Westland, chairman of the working party which produced the report, said that in 1976 a Department of Health report pressed for urgent action. "Since then we have witnessed a sorry saga of inaction, back-passing and denial of responsibility, while the scale of the problem has become rapidly and seriously worse," he said.

Homeless Young Offenders. An action programme.

Nacro, 169 Clapham Road, London SW9 0PU. £3.25.



In training: Children beat the rail strike as the miniature railway train which takes them to school in New Romney, Kent, pulls into Dymchurch station.

Survival in the lower depths

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

Bill, a former soldier who saw friends killed in Northern Ireland and bought himself out, has learnt how to make a night shelter in St James's Park, London, out of a deckchair. But the Savoy Hotel offers four-star dosing for those in the know: there is a recess at the back with an air-conditioning ventilator.

He was one of a group of youngsters I spoke to yesterday in a London hostel. His survival experience is handy for young people on the streets and out of a job. After leaving the Army Bill got into a downward spiral of joblessness and eventually homelessness.

Shane, another city centre victim, now 20, had no money for food and shelter

when he was alone in London aged 17 and became a male prostitute, hanging around Piccadilly Circus. A session then cost £30. He had left Devon to try to come to London with his homosexual partner.

Joe had a job in a hospital but lost it after bouts of fainting and falling asleep. Then, after a year in and out of different hospitals and spells of unconsciousness, he collapsed on an Underground railway platform and was out for one and a half days. He woke up on a respirator in yet another hospital. At last he is fitted with a pacemaker.

Mr Stephen Jacobs, coordinator of the West End Coordinating Voluntary Services for the Single Homeless, says: "One wonders if

Doctor 'paid bribe to aid Poulson'

From Our Correspondent Bournemouth

A doctor accused of acting as a middle man in a Poulson bribery deal 16 years ago told the police it was unbelievable when he was arrested at his home last June, a court was told yesterday.

Dr Kenneth Williams, aged 54, a consultant of Glenfern Avenue, Bournemouth, Dorset, told the police he could not believe he was being charged so long.

He was facing criminal proceedings at Bournemouth Magistrates' Court on two charges of corruptly offering a total of £5,000 to ensure that a hospital construction contract went to Mr John Poulson's company in Yorkshire.

No action after police riot assault

By Frances Gibbs

Disciplinary proceedings are not to be brought against police officers who injured a voluntary medical worker in the riot in Southall, London in 1979 despite there being evidence that excessive force was used.

Mr Richard Bunning, then aged 24, had complained to the Commissioner for the Metropolitan Police that in disturbances at Park View Road on April 23, 1979, where he was helping in the first aid room, he was struck about the head by police officers. He was detained overnight in hospital with concussion.

The Director of Public Prosecutions told him that he did not consider the evidence of assault sufficient for charges to be brought against any one officer.

The decision means, however, that the Police Complaints Board in turn cannot bring disciplinary charges against any officers because of the "double jeopardy" rule which operates in police complaints procedures.

But in a letter to Mr Bunning's solicitors, the board says: "Despite the director's decision, the evidence indicates that excessive force was used by some police officers, both in clearing people from the medical

Subsidies favour rich more, don says

By Robert Jones

The subsidies which flow from the Welfare State disproportionately favour the rich and well-off more than the needy. That is the conclusion of a research study published today, and it should cause politicians to question the assumptions on which they are basing their arguments about which public subsidies should be cut.

The study, entitled *The Strategy of Equality*, has been written by Dr Julien Le Grand, an economics lecturer at the London School of Economics.

His conclusion expressed in careful academic terms, is: "public expenditure, in almost all the forms reviewed, is distributed in favour of the higher social groups."

The forms of expenditure that Dr Le Grand has studied are health care, education, housing and transport, which in total account for some 20 per cent of all government expenditure in Britain, and loom large in most other Western democracies.

His findings are:

Health: The top socioeconomic group, professionals, employers and managers, benefits from up to two fifths more National Health Service expenditure per ill person than the bottom group, semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers.

Education: The top group receives nearly a half more public expenditure a person than the bottom group. But that is not yet another argument against the public schools.

The important differences are in after-16 education. The subsidy favours the top people by three times as much in further education as a whole, and by no less than five times as much in university education.

Housing: The highest group receives more than twice as much as the lowest group. The subsidy element in the tax relief on mortgages for owner-occupier more than compensates for the subsidy to council house tenants.

Transport: The richest fifth on income distribution receives about 10 times as much private subsidy a household on rail travel and 17 times as much on private transport as the poorest fifth. Even subsidies on bus operators benefit the better off, although the evidence is more questionable.

Dr Le Grand concludes that on bus travel manual workers are the principal beneficiaries.

Those results quite simply cut the ground away from both sides in the present debate. The right-wing Conservative view is that cuts, although painful, are necessary for economic survival. The Labour viewpoint is that the cuts affect the worst off most harshly. On that analysis, government subsidies in those areas are pouring money out of the pockets of the well-off, powerful, and healthy, rather than redistributing wealth to those in need.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Fire risk at Free Trade Hall

The wiring and ventilation system at the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, is in such a dangerous state that it is a fire hazard, safety experts have said.

Health and Safety Executive officers have asked Manchester City Council, which owns and runs the hall, for an immediate undertaking to carry out maintenance work.

The hall is the home of the Halle Orchestra and often stages big pop concerts. The council's finance committee heard yesterday that the plant, which was installed 30 years ago, is reaching the end of its useful life.

Much of the equipment is obsolete and substandard, some has stopped working, and other parts are a fire hazard.

The committee recommended that the council should spend more than £400,000 over the next six years to remedy the defects; but work will not start until the hall closes for six weeks in July.

Poison letters to Penlee widows

Widows of the men lost in the Penlee lifeboat disaster off Penzance last month, whose fund is nearing £3m, have been receiving malicious anonymous letters. Mrs Mary Greenough, one of the widows, said that women with older children had been the main targets. One letter said that they had been glad of the tragedy and would be "merry widows."

John Cleese's wife banned

Mrs Barbara Cleese, of Morning Hill, London, the wife of John Cleese, the actor, was banned from driving for a year and fined £100 at Marylebone Court yesterday after admitting failing to give a blood or urine sample for alcohol tests last December. Mrs Cleese, who was stopped by the police after driving through a red light, denied driving while unfit because of drink or drugs and the police offered no evidence on that charge.

Forger's prison sentence cut

Pier Luigi Torri, a former film producer of Mount Street, Mayfair, London, convicted at the Central Criminal Court in March, 1980, of forgery charges involving £732,000, had his seven-year jail sentence reduced to three years by the Court of Appeal in London yesterday. Lord Justice O'Connor said the sentence was excessive.

Target missing

The jobcentre at Grantham, Lincolnshire, with 600 unemployed women on its books, is having difficulty filling one of its few vacancies, a £10-a-night job as "target" for Buffalo Billy Wild, a knife thrower.

Cash help for adoptive parents

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

Private adoption except between relatives are to be outlawed and adoptive parents are to receive a weekly allowance under important changes in adoption law to be introduced next month after a delay of more than five years.

Voluntary adoption agencies will have to be approved by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Security before they can register with local authorities under the changes which have been on the statute books since 1975, but have not been implemented because of lack of money.

The Act was designed to make adoption a genuine option for more children in care who needed to be

brought up in families and to minimise the financial situation would have prevented adoption.

Some children now living with foster parents cannot be adopted because the family cannot afford to lose the fostering allowances. The provision is designed to test whether an adoption would lead to more adoptions. Experience in the United States suggests that it does.

A report on the experiment must be made to Parliament within seven years.

The British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering is sending a guide on adoption allowances to its members today encouraging them to produce their own schemes.

The money was allegedly paid in two instalments to a Maltese agent in 1966 for transmission to Dr Carmelo Caruana, then Minister of Public Buildings and Works in Malta, when Dr Williams was managing director of Vickers Ltd's medical engineering division.

Mr James Green, for the defence, said the hearing was trial by documentation.

The case was committed to Winchester Crown Court and bail was continued subject to two sureties of £5,000 each.

60,000 sheep still lost

By Nicholas Timmins

Sheep farmers in Wales were still digging out of the remaining snowdrifts an estimated 60,000 missing sheep yesterday. And the National Farmers' Union said that if the thaw had not started last weekend, up to half the 3.4 million sheep in Wales might have been lost.

The total number of deaths, although it may be thousands, looks as though it will be relatively small, even though some individual farmers have lost a tenth of their flock. But Mr Alan Edwards, the NFU's commodity secretary in Wales, said yesterday that the worst effects of the snow may still be to come.

Many sheep will recover, but some will lose their lambs. "A lot of twin lambs will probably become one lamb. The implications for the long term are probably a sight worse than the actual losses in the snow."

An NFU survey suggests that coastal counties suffered far more than the uplands. A rough estimate suggested that 60,000 sheep were still unaccounted for. "That does not mean to say they are all dead," Mr Edwards said.

Appeal by black fireman

By Lucy Hodges

The only black fireman in Lancashire, who was dismissed for alleged insubordination - failing to stand to attention and failing to salute - is appealing to Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, for reinstatement.

The case of Mr Roland Steven, set out in Roger Checkpoint programme on BBC Radio 4 yesterday, has aroused great concern in the black community. The shortage of black firemen recently led London's fire chief to the United States to find out how blacks were recruited there.

Mr Steven, of Blackpool, had been five years in the fire service. Before that he spent 12 years in the Army, with a period as section commander in Northern Ireland.

His dismissal was ordered first in 1980 after a hearing in front of Mr Jack Warden, Chief Fire Officer of Lancashire, and was confirmed last year by the Lancashire fire authority.

Mr Steven is appealing on the grounds of unfair dismissal and racial discrimination. At first he was charged with four disciplinary offences: neglect of duty, disobedience to orders, and two offences of insubordination. The two first charges were dismissed and the last two upheld.

On the programme yesterday his supporters said there had been intimidation of potential witnesses, and that Mr Steven had been subjected to racial jibes.

On the programme Mr Warden denied those allegations and said there was far more to it than refusal to salute an officer.



Anne Keating, a midwife with seven years' nursing experience, takes home £320 a month.



Bridget Lovell, a hospital staff nurse with four years' experience, £323.



Sheila Walker, a community nurse with eight years' experience, £308.

Why nurses want to breach pay limit

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

Thousands of nurses and midwives are expected to attend a rally in Trafalgar Square in London on Sunday as the culmination of their campaign for more pay. Britain's 460,000 nurses are seeking a 12 per cent pay rise, three times more than the Government's planned cash limit for salaries, but they have two disadvantages in their fight: their huge numbers and their unwillingness to strike.

Because there are so many of them every percentage point awarded over the average puts an extra £25m on the salaries bill, while the Royal College of Nursing's no-strike policy means that the Government can be sure that if the nurses are limited to 4 per cent there will not be any serious industrial action.

Three state registered nurses, who feel bitter about their pay and who feel there are good reasons why nurses should be outside the cash limit, highlight the problem. All three have done a

minimum of three years' training and have between four and eight years' experience each.

In addition, one, Anne Keating, has done a year's course in midwifery, but that does not earn her any more than her nurse colleagues. In fact, it puts her back as far as earnings are concerned because it delays by a year her chance of becoming a sister.

Miss Keating, aged 26, who works at Middlesex Hospital, London, and lives in north London, earns a gross monthly salary of £490 and takes home £320.

Her monthly outgoings are rent £95, electricity £25, food £50, travelling £13, driving lessons £28, television rental £7.50, and laundry £5. That is £224 a month for clothes, entertainments, holidays, newspapers, and savings.

She says: "Our wages generally seem to be going downhill. The rises that we have had have just not kept

pace with inflation."

Community nurse Sheila Walker, aged 27, who is attached to a health centre in Nottingham, visits patients who have to be nursed at home, is particularly angry about the poor contribution she gets towards running her Mini Metro, which she bought a year ago by using her savings and borrowing £2,000 from her parents.

She gets a 16p-a-mile car allowance and an annual lump sum of £300. She is taxed on the mileage allowance and says the £300 does not go far towards depreciation.

She takes home £308 a month, and pays £71 for rent, £90 for food, £11 for gas and electricity and about £58 for her car, after taking into account the allowances.

"Up to now, my pay has never worried me particularly because I have always had a pound in my pocket. But now I would like to stop paying rent and buy my own place but there is no way I

could get together a deposit," she said.

Staff Nurse Bridget Lovell, aged 25, who works at the Royal Free Hospital, north London, and lives in Camden Town near by, is unhappy about the antisocial hours and poor career structure. She works part of the week from 7.30am to 4.30pm, the rest from 12.30pm to 9.30pm and every other weekend.

She is unusual in having a degree from Bristol.

"You can think in terms of becoming a sister, but then after that the choice is either to go into teaching or administration. But if you do not want to do either, that is you want to stay on the wards, you are stuck with very low pay."

Her monthly take home pay of £323 goes on rent £80, rates £12, gas and electricity £8, telephone £5, transport £9, food £90, and cigarettes £20; leaving about £100 for clothes, entertainments, holidays, savings for a car, and newspapers.

Man complains over Motorail ban

By David Nicholson-Lord

A businessman banned by British Rail from using its Motorail service has accused British Rail of abusing its monopoly and said he intended to complain to the Director-General of Fair Trading.

Mr Edward Lacoste, aged 38, put £8,000 of savings and redundancy money into launching a parcels delivery business after losing his job as a newspaper marketing executive. But after initially welcoming his venture, British Rail told him last month he could no longer use Motorail, on which the scheme relies, apparently because of fears of competition.

Mr Lacoste, who denied that his venture threatened British Rail's Red Star parcels service, has complained to Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport. In a letter to Mr Howell, Sir

Peter Parker, British Rail's chairman, defended the decision. According to British Rail, it was a matter of commercial judgement.

Mr Lacoste's business, Overnight Bag Enterprises, cuts out several loading and handling stages and reduces costs by sending parcels in vans by Motorail. He began it 15 months ago and succeeded in building up a turnover of £80,000, worth £10,000 a year to Motorail, with twice weekly deliveries between London and Edinburgh.

Although he has maintained costs and destroyed the original concept of minimal handling and hence less risk of damage, he says.

British Rail said Motorail was designed and priced to take motorists and their vehicles long distances by rail, "not to provide a service for a general parcels carrier taking unit loads".

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BL Fighting back

Bishops in outburst over civil marriage

From Mario Mediano, Athens, Jan. 21

The Orthodox Church of Greece has condemned civil marriage as "an act of prostitution and adultery" and demanded that the Socialist Government should desist from its plan to make this form of marriage ceremony legal.

Religious marriage only is binding in Greece, and the Government promised to make the civil marriage compulsory and the religious ceremony optional.

The church reacted strongly. A unanimous resolution passed during a stormy meeting of the General Synod last night, declared that only religious marriage could be legalised according to Orthodox doctrine.

The bishops ruled: "Any Greek Orthodox marrying by civil ceremony will cut himself from the church since civil marriage is a worldly and worldly thing, a fundamental command of the faith... and will, therefore, renounce its blessing."

The Synod said it would tolerate the introduction of civil marriage only if the State declared atheists or members of other creeds or religions.

Earlier the meeting had nearly broken up in disarray when Bishop Ambrosios, one of the 70 odd churchmen attending, shouted abuse against the country's political leaders and accused the Prime Minister, Archbishop Serafim, of scheming with "these godless atheists and Marxists."

According to one account, the Archbishop, who had fought as a guerrilla leader during the war, pounced on his detractors and threatened to use force to stop him. The two men had to be physically restrained before the session could be resumed.

The General Synod decided to send a committee of bishops to the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister to underline the strength of feeling in the Church over this issue.

The Government so far has not reacted to this rebuff, but the episode could signal a confrontation between the Socialists and the traditionally conservative church leaders who are concerned that the new regime is out to weaken the church of its powers and property.

The Socialists seem determined to press ahead with the separation of church and state to end the Greek's dependence of the church in several formalities relating to their civil status, such as registration of births, marriages, and ratification of divorces. Greek newspapers estimate that the fees for these functions yield at least £6m a year.

Arabs regroup in UN battle against Israelis

From Our Correspondent, New York, Jan. 21

An emergency special session of the United Nations General Assembly was under active consideration by the Arab group today after its efforts to invoke voluntary sanctions against Israel were blocked by the United States in the Security Council.

Comforted by Britain and France abstaining during last night's vote, the Arab group vowed that the Americans would not prevent the United Nations from fulfilling its responsibilities. The Israeli annexation of the Golan Heights was an act of aggression and would have to be responded to with equal force.

Diplomatic sources said that a forthcoming meeting of Arab foreign ministers would decide whether or not to ask for an emergency special session. In the past these sessions have been convened when a measure has been blocked in the Security Council by a veto from one or more of the permanent members.

Last night Mrs. Jeane Kirkpatrick, the American delegate, said the United States had vetoed the draft resolution because it was "an aberration" and "even a perversion" of the reason for the Council's existence.

"We do not approve of Israel's annexation," she said. "Nor do we believe that annexation has occurred."

Mrs. Kirkpatrick seemed to be alluding to Israeli claims that its December 14 law placing the Golan Heights under its legal jurisdiction was just that and the status of the Israeli-occupied territory was subject to change through the process of negotiations.

Mr. Yehuda Blum, the Israeli delegate, last night appealed to Syria to abandon its path of confrontation and begin peace negotiations immediately.

Damascus: Syria today accused the United States of encouraging Israel to destroy chances of peace in the Middle East by vetoing the United Nations Security Council resolution on sanctions (Reuters reports).

Cairo: Egypt will not accept any restrictions on Palestinian rights in autonomy negotiations. Mr. Kamal Hassan Ali, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, said in an interview published today in the weekly, *al-Mussawwar*, (AFP Reports).

"Egypt also refuses to allow the Palestinians to be replaced" in any talks, added Mr. Ali. "It is not simply a question of signing an agreement, but to sign one allowing other parties to participate in the negotiations."

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Family reunion: Dr. Julio Iglesias facing a battery of cameras and microphones in Miami where he rejoined his family. The doctor, whose son Julio, the Spanish singer, is looking on, spoke of his 15-day ordeal at the hands of kidnappers

France avoids constitution clash

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Jan. 21

Wiser counsels have prevailed in the French Government over the hotheads of the Socialist Party in avoiding a frontal clash with the Constitutional Council and ensuring a smooth and rapid passage for the new draft of the nationalization bill.

M. Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, told a press conference this morning that the Government's foremost concern was to avoid the bill being again delayed by the council because of irregularities. This would have unleashed a constitutional crisis involving the council

and President Mitterrand. "I understood I must not take any risks on that plane, and especially not let the President in for any," M. Mauroy said.

The Prime Minister added that the Constitutional Council was not looking for confrontation with the Government. The council endorsed the principle of nationalization, contrary to the view of the Opposition and the Senate.

M. Mauroy reassured the Government's respect for the constitution, with a veiled warning to the council. A

similar warning was given by the Secretary-General of the Elysee Palace yesterday. He said judicial power could not take precedence over the will of the people and "whoever tried to thwart the implementation of nationalization would commit a serious error."

The Government has also rejected the suggestion by M. Laurent Fabius, the Minister for the Budget, and Socialist and Communist leaders, that the increased cost of the nationalization should be financed by extra taxes on the rich.

Zoo puts to death unwanted tigers

Copenhagen, Jan. 21. — With no room to let them roam freely, Copenhagen Zoo has had to kill three magnificent Bengal tigers because no other zoos would give them a home.

"It's a bit of a paradox," Mr. Bent Joergensen, the zoo's managing director, said today. "The tiger is a threatened species in India but in the zoos there is increasing overpopulation."

The 18-month-old tigers were put down yesterday by painless injections, Mr. Joergensen said. The Danish Animal Protection Society protested, describing the destruction of the tigers as senseless.

"Emotionally, it does feel senseless, but there just wasn't anything else for us to do," Mr. Joergensen said. "Many zoos are facing the same problem with their tigers." He added that he had offered the animals three times to 150 zoos without charge, even indicating that he would pay for their transport if necessary. There were no takers.

"Just 10 years ago the zoos were lining up to buy tigers or tiger cubs," he said. "Now tigers breed so willingly in captivity that there are as many tigers in the zoos as in the Indian jungles — about 2,000."

He added: "Had we turned them all loose in the large open-air pen, the fight for territory and females would have led to a bloodbath."

Siberians ease embassy fast

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, Jan. 21

The American Embassy here said that the two Pentecostals who have been on hunger strike for over three weeks to press their demands to be allowed to leave the embassy and emigrate to the United States were in a stable condition and their weight loss had slowed down.

Augustina Vashchenko, aged 52, and her 31-year-old daughter Lidia are among seven Pentecostals who rushed past Soviet guards in 1978 to seek refuge in the embassy. They said they were being persecuted by the Soviet authorities and would not leave until given exit visas.

The embassy said today that the two women had been taking only liquids, but were now taking a course of fruit and vegetables which had stopped their weight loss. The Pentecostals say the Americans, who provide transport with free food and upkeep, are not doing enough to press their cause.

Last Friday former President Carter telephoned them and also urged them to stop their protest, without success. The Soviet authorities are understood to be willing to let the seven emigrate providing they return to their home town of Chernogorsk, in Siberia, and fill in the normal application forms.

China plea for profit sharing

Peking, Jan. 21. — The People's Daily, the Chinese Communist Party newspaper, in a reversal of past ideological teachings, said today that workers have a direct stake in profits earned by their factories.

It also called for tighter managerial control in industry and recommended that employees who consistently fail to turn up for work should be dismissed.

The proposals would have been considered heretical until recently but China's present leaders are attempting to do away with the "iron rice-bowl" concept which makes it almost impossible to dismiss a worker.

The newspaper also called for the separation of party and administrative offices in industry.

The present pragmatic leadership under Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping is trying to reduce the emphasis on ideology (Reuters).

\$5-a-week immigrants tell of US slavery

From Christopher Thomas, New York, Jan. 21

A remarkable case of alleged slave labour has been uncovered in North Carolina, demonstrating the severe and worsening plight of migrant workers in the United States.

Two workers told a federal trial in Raleigh, North Carolina, that they picked potatoes for \$5 (£2.50) a week and two meals a day. They claim that one of the men was worked to death. They were held in a barn or unfurnished house at night and kept under constant watch.

Three black men, and a fourth who has disappeared, are accused of severe violations of labour laws. According to prosecution evidence they kept their employees in constant fear of beatings.

Although it is an extreme example, the case does demonstrate the vulnerability of migrant workers, especially those in the country illegally, who are usually prepared to work for a pittance.

Official estimates put the number of illegal immigrants at between 3.5 million and six million, and the figure is rising by up to 500,000 a year. Most come from Mexico.

Illegal immigration has always been an acute problem, but has increased sharply over the past few years, primarily because of high unemployment in Mexico and other Latin American countries. Most of those arrested are deported but many persuade the authorities to let them stay.

Last year 980,000 illegal immigrants were caught, and each had to be put through a laborious screening process before being granted residential status or sent home. The increase in immigration has created opportunities for unscrupulous employers; reports of sweat-shop labour conditions are widespread.

There is little the immigration authorities can do to halt illegal crossings from Mexico but the Coast Guard has intensified efforts to halt immigration by boat.

President Reagan last September ordered the Coast Guard to apprehend and return the growing number of arrivals from Haiti, a decision that has angered the relatively small but vociferous Haitian community, most of whom live in Miami.

Immigrants from Cuba nearly always stay because Cuba will not take them back, although last Friday one man was accepted. He was the first in several years to return.

British and American officials are concerned over developments on the Caribbean island of St. Lucia, where a left-winger has taken power after a general strike which paralysed the former British colony.

The strike, which was joined by civil servants, prompted fears that the island might be about to go the way of Grenada, which has aligned itself with Cuba under the extreme left-wing Government of Mr. Maurice Bishop.

Officials contacted by telephone in Castries, the capital of St. Lucia, said that Mr. Michael Pilgrim, the deputy leader of the Progressive Labour Party, the smallest party in the House of Assembly, has set about forming an interim Government of National Unity after the resignation of the Cabinet headed by Mr. Winston Cenac. Mr. Pilgrim is expected to dissolve the Assembly.

Allegations of widespread corruption have created serious tensions on the island. These allegations came to a head with last week's general strike which was marked by armed attacks on shops which had ignored the strikers' call to close down.

At one point British officials in Washington feared that the situation was deteriorating so rapidly that the British helicopter assault ship *Hermes*, which is on station in the Caribbean, was placed on standby. "It looks like the *Hermes* won't be needed now, but we're keeping a close watch on the place," one British official said.

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Mapping the ocean floor.

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A new era in air traffic control.

Last October, the UK Civil Aviation Authority awarded IAL the contract for equipping the London Air Traffic Control Centre with a microprocessor-based voice communications system, IAL Stratus. This will help to achieve even higher standards in safety and efficiency.

The £150m medical services contract.

Through its associates, the International Hospitals Group, IAL has already started work on a massive £150m medical services contract for the Saudi Arabian National Guard.

The hotel run by computer.

During the past year IAL has masterminded and financed the development of Maxial, a totally new computer based hotel management system. This technology will meet the increasingly sophisticated demands of the hotel and leisure industries, on a worldwide scale.

New factories. More employment.

While cut-backs are the talk of other boardrooms IAL continues to expand.

In August our Data Communications Division will be opening a new factory complex near Basingstoke.

Naturally, we are involved in many more new developments: for example, satellite ground processing systems and fibre optics. Of course, there are other projects of a sensitive nature that also hold great potential for the company. And thus for the economy.

If you're interested in more facts and figures our Company Secretary will be happy to post you a copy of our Annual Report.



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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Barred MP may attend US dinner

New York — Mr Owen Carron, Independent Republican MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, who American immigration officials fear may be planning to enter the United States via Canada, after arriving unexpectedly in Toronto. (Christopher Thomas writes).

He is planning television appearances to counter the five-day visit to Canada by the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists. He was refused a visa to enter the United States last October on the ground that his visit would be prejudicial to the public interest. Mr Paisley was refused a visa for the same reason.

Noraid, the Irish-American group that raises money for the Provisional IRA, has promised to present "a special guest" at its annual dinner in New York today. Noraid officials in New York would merely say that the proposed guest would be "interesting from the British point of view." The group previously has provided a platform for people entering the country illegally and has received extensive and usually sympathetic publicity each time.

Its biggest coup was in August 1979 when Mr. McGuinness, the first IRA man to go on the "blanket protest" at the Maze prison near Belfast, was smuggled in. He was arrested and allowed out bail, and for several weeks he went on a speaking tour of the country.

China's bumper grain harvest

Peking. — China's grain crop last year totalled 325.7 million tonnes, 7.5 million tonnes more than in 1980, the New China news agency said. It was the second biggest harvest ever, exceeded only by the 1979 crop of 332 million tonnes.

The agency said the total was achieved despite a fall of 6.57 million acres in the area under grain and serious flooding in several areas.

Western agricultural experts described the 1981 harvest as highly satisfactory. The news agency attributed the successful harvest to recent measures to encourage peasants to sell privately any crops grown over the state quota.

Skipper denies carrying arms

Naha, Okinawa. — Mr Hideo Takakuwa, captain of the Japanese chemical tanker straddled by Philippine aircraft off Mindanao island, has denied he was carrying arms or terrorists.

The Philippines claims the Hegg was carrying 15m or weapons and explosives but Japanese investigators who boarded the ship before it docked found nothing. Mr Takakuwa said: "It is impossible for us to carry arms or terrorists", and denied ignoring an order to halt.

Angola denies peace talks

The Angolan authorities have denied a flurry of reports that they are about to open negotiations with UNITA, the leading group of Angolan insurgents, and the United States, with which they have no diplomatic relations. (David Cross writes).

Angop, the official Angolan news agency, said that press claims that the Government had sent a message to UNITA offering reconciliation talks had "absolutely no foundation in truth". Angop also denied Washington press reports that official negotiations were about to take place in Paris next week with the United States.

Military regime gets warning

Buenos Aires. — A group of Argentine political parties has warned the military government that unless it changes its course the country's political, economic and social decline will gather force. (Andrew McLeod writes). Criticising what it said was an economic policy which favoured only "a small minority traditionally opposed to the interests of the people," the group said in a statement that the people had demanded respect and received only aggression.

Reagan's Easter

Washington. — President Reagan and his wife Nancy are to spend the Easter holiday with Claudette Colbert, one of his old Hollywood friends, at her winter home in Barbados. It will be his first trip out of the country since last October's North-South summit in Cancun, Mexico.

Cocaine haul

Sao Paulo. — Brazilian police seized 83lb of cocaine, their biggest ever haul, worth £3m at street prices, in two swoops in which three were arrested. They claimed to have broken into a network smuggling cocaine from Bolivia and Colombia to the Brazilian city of Manaus, then to Sao Paulo, and finally the United States. — Reuter.

Poland in danger of civil war, 26 bishops say

Warsaw, Jan. 21. — Poland's Roman Catholic bishops warned the military regime in a statement made available today that martial law could provoke rebellion and even civil war. (Reuter reports).

The statement will be read as a pastoral letter from the pulpits of the 15,000 churches in the country on Sunday or next. It demanded the restoration of freedoms revoked after martial law was proclaimed on December 13 and a resumption of political dialogue.

It was signed by the diocesan bishops and by the primate, Archbishop Jozef Glemp, who has already denounced the martial law authorities three times from the pulpit.

The 26 leading bishops met in Warsaw earlier this week and resolved to send a letter to General Wojciech Jaruzelski, leader of the ruling Military Council, at the same time as issuing their pastoral message. That letter, like all those of whom it depends to respect freedom, especially freedom of conscience and belief, to meet half way the love of freedom which is so dear to our nation," the message said.

"Respect for this freedom should result in restoration of the state's normal functioning, quick release of all detainees, cessation of all duress on ideological grounds and dismissals from work for political views or trade union membership", the message said.

In effect, the bishops are demanding an end to martial law. The notion of "duress on ideological grounds" referred to the loyalty oaths which state employees were being asked to make under

the threat of losing their jobs.

"We make it clear that for the sake of freedom, the right to organize independent unions and youth associations must be restored", the bishops added. "Real peace stems from the respect for freedom and correct understanding of everyone's right to freedom of the right to freedom and respect for freedom by those who govern and are governed — this is what is actually meant by social justice."

"It is the only justice which is a foundation of peace", the bishops said. "Let us state emphatically that infringing the right to freedom leads to protests, rebellion and even to civil war."

This warning was made twice. "The curbing of freedom which belongs to man leads to protest, rebellion and even war", another passage stated.

The bishops called for a resumption of social and political talks between the authorities and society. "The dialogue may be difficult but it is not impossible. Everyone expects this dialogue. We as bishops appeal for it. We must limit the wave of growing hatred, vengeance and revenge. These activities infringe human dignity, curb civic rights and thus inhibit national accord."

More than 150 Solidarity activists have been jailed for organizing strikes or other protests since martial law was proclaimed, according to official figures available today. They were sentenced under Article 6 of the martial law decrees which stipulates automatic jail sentences for organizing strikes

EEC's £18m aid may go to charities

From Ian Murray Brussels, Jan 21

Money set aside for providing cut-price food for Poland should instead be made available to charities distributing humanitarian aid in the country. That idea by the European Commission is to be put to the EEC foreign ministers for approval when they hold their formal meeting in Brussels on Tuesday.

The amount of money involved is the £18m which has been made available by the Commission to enable EEC countries to sell food to Poland at 15 per cent below world prices.

The commission will discuss with the three main organizations operating in Poland — Caritas, the Red Cross and Medicines Sans Frontières — the money can best be spent.

In Strasbourg yesterday, Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Foreign Minister, and the new chairman of the Council of Ministers, said that the Commission's decision, would need endorsement at the next council meeting on Monday, (George Clark writes). The main object was to ensure that special food aid got to the right people. Normal food sales would continue.

A decision on the proposal is likely to be the only concrete decision on Poland taken by the council when it meets on Monday. It will be under mounting pressure from the United States to agree a package of sanctions against the Polish military regime and the Soviet Union.

Meetings in Brussels this week of technical experts and political directors from member states have failed to agree a package. Measures under review include: a ban on the import of Russian vodka and caviar; restrictions on the movements of Soviet and Polish diplomats; and a reclassification of the Soviet Union by the OECD as "relatively rich country", which would force its suppliers to pay more for their export credits.

Possible technical measures will be brought up during Saturday's meeting. Nato of technical experts

Moscow. The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon), the Soviet trading block, together with Yugoslavia, today condemned American sanctions against Moscow and Warsaw, while promising to give aid to Poland to support Poland's efforts to strengthen law and order. The Western measures were dubbed "a sordid vendetta" (Michael Binyon writes).

A statement issued after a regular meeting at the Comecon headquarters here said the 10 member-countries resolutely reject all actions by the United States and other Nato countries directed at interference in the internal affairs of the Polish People's Republic.

Paris: The meeting of the Coords Committee for Multilateral Exports Controls (Cocom) which ended in Paris yesterday was revised completely the list of strategic materials and of methods of controlling their exports to East European countries, (Charles Hargrove writes).

Hungarian Church in conflict

Esztogom, Hungary, Jan. 21. — A large and growing network of independent believers, most of them critical of the Church and the Communist state in which they live, has become a thorn in the side of Hungary's Catholic hierarchy.

The tastes of the so-called "basic communities", private prayer and study groups, whose outspoken views have grown over the past year, ranges from quiet reflection to exorcism, from ignorance of all politics to controversial views such as pacifism.

Senior Church sources said that as many as 100,000 of Hungary's seven million Roman Catholics may have opted for this more active form of faith so many, that the state has begun pressing the Catholic hierarchy to reestablish control over its congregation.

Cardinal Laszlo Lekai, Hungary's primate, admitted his difficulties with the more radical activists who were almost a traitor to cooperating with the authorities and emphasising practical issues such as new church buildings and religious education.

He also described his critics as fanatics, defended the disciplining of two priests who advocated pacifism, and urged in favour of strong national defence.

The question of who is destroying what within the Church is hard to answer amid the accusations heard here and abroad. Catholics in the West, including the Pope, feel that the Hungarian hierarchy is too ready to compromise with the atheist state. The radical basic communities make the same accusation. Esztogom, the traditional seat of Hungarian Catholicism.

Cardinal Lekai and his followers say that their critics destroy the Catholic unity needed to press for the gradual improvements that can be won from the relatively moderate state.

The basic communities, which caused a flurry here in the mid 1970s, returned to prominence last summer when a Budapest priest was dismissed for preaching a pacifist sermon to 700 young Catholics. Father Laszlo Kovacs ignored orders from Cardinal Lekai not to speak after the young pilgrims asked him to give his views on conscientious objection, which is recognized here only for sects such as the Jehovah's Witnesses. After Father Kovacs was sent to a rural parish for six months, Father Andras Gromon from Szekesfehervar criticized the Primate's decision. He was also promptly transferred to the countryside.

These actions led to a wave of protest letters to Cardinal Lekai. One from a group of priests accused him of using "inappropriate methods to condemn people who did not agree with him. The cardinal, who is 71, retorted with a ringing defence of the military vessel, and added that the assignment to a rural unit of a Nato mission within the area of responsibility of the Greek Navy implied "an intention to alter existing arrangements on operational jurisdiction in the Aegean".

As for the almost unanimous criticism he receives from Catholics in the West, he said: "They are 100 per cent wrong". — Reuter

One year in the White House

How Reagan escapes blame for his policies

From Michael Hamlyn, New York, Jan 21

As the President of the United States enters his second year of office there is a paradox about the way the public regards him.

"Things" — the economy, unemployment, inflation, Soviet relations and so on — are widely perceived to be terrible. By and large the President's policies are blamed to a considerable extent for making them so. But, by and large also, those policies are expected to make them better eventually.

At the same time the President, affable, charming, witty, good on public occasions, is well liked.

In a national telephone survey, carried out by CBS news and The New York Times, 60 per cent of those questioned thought that Mr Reagan's economic programme would eventually help the country's economy. Among those with incomes of \$20,000 a year or more the percentage rose to 80.

That highest income section of the population also gave Mr Reagan the highest approval rating — 69 per cent of them think that he is doing a good job. But he got the lowest approval rating ever recorded by the black community. Only eight per cent approved of him and that is down from a not very encouraging 14 per cent when the poll was last taken in November.

This general approval rating, weighed down perhaps by the hostility from the poor and blacks, has slipped over recent months until he has the approval of only 49 per cent of those questioned —

lower than President Carter's rating after one year of his Administration. But the younger generation are holding up well. Fifty-six per cent of 18 to 29-year-olds approve.

The great liberal newspapers are vehement in their denunciation of the President. The Washington Post, for instance, published a report on his press conference this week, that virtually amounts to a line-by-line denunciation.

"The President defended his economic record with a string of figures on unemployment, every one of which was inaccurate," it says. "The President did not mention..."

... says the fourth paragraph of the report. "The moral message of the Reagan Administration has been in evidence constantly: in its indifference to civil rights for blacks or equal rights for women, in its attack on legal services for the poor, and in the President's own cruel remark that those who cannot find good jobs or schools or services where they live should 'vote with their feet' and move on."

"Even when the Reagan Administration decided to distribute cheese to the poor, bringing on charges of Depression-era soup kitchens in the nation's capital, it did so, not from a desire to relieve their hunger, but from a desire to cut government storage costs."

The Chicago Tribune,

which supported the election of Mr Reagan in 1979, now, has severe doubts about his economic policy, thinking that the budget deficit is so important that the tax cuts ought not to have taken place. But it concludes: "Mr Reagan was elected by a majority who were disillusioned with the continuing inability of big government to solve our problems, and who welcomed the prospect of something different."

"Few of them knew or could agree on precisely what they wanted, but it had a good deal to do with 'getting government off our back and encouraging our self-reliance as individuals.'"

"For all the Reagan Administration's stumbling and for all the promises that would be better unkept, it has moved the country in the direction towards which the election pointed. This in itself is reason not to write it off as a failure. It is reason rather to say that if the Reagan Administration can win the crucial battle of inflation it will almost certainly go down in history as a resounding success."

Similarly the Christian Science Monitor in Boston tempers its enthusiasm with a modicum of reservation on the economy:

"It is clear that his can-do political style, his mastery of Congress, his buoyant temperament, and his amiability have kept him relatively high in the opinion polls despite some deepening public scepticism about his economic policies. His old-fashioned conservatism may stir objections from labour, liberals,

and some minority groups, but there is no denying his skills as a leader.

"Will his economic recipes work? The national judgment is still out though doubts grow in many quarters. But if we were to single out the most salient fact about the Reagan presidency to date, it is perhaps Mr Reagan's inclination to do what works. He has shown in one year — as he did as Governor of California — that his is more the flexible pragmatist than the hidebound ideologue. Without retreating on his convictions and goals, he seems prepared to shift tactics in achieving them. That may prove to be a saving trait given the difficulties the nation must work out of — and the absence of a consensus on how to do this."

But the real test of the President's popularity can be shown not in the high and mighty newspapers, but in the industrial mid-west. "How will it play in Peoria?" is a question often asked by members of Mr Reagan's former profession. The Wall St Journal, in an effort to test this, assembled a group of blue-collar workers not in Peoria, but in Akron, Ohio, with fascinating results.

Mr Larry Michaels, a 35-year-old blue-collar worker, was contemptuous of Mr Reagan's tax cut. "Without a \$30 billion tax cut," he said, "then maybe he would have only a \$70 billion budget deficit."

Mr Robert Oplinger, aged 55, a retired fireman, agreed and argued that the tax cut was unfairly favoured big business. Neither Mr Oplinger nor one of his neighbours, Mrs Loretta Grogg, were very happy about the near-11 per cent unemployment in this industrial city. A year ago the rate was under 10 per cent.

These views make Akron appear a hotbed of anti-Reagan sentiment. The tone changed, however, when the same three voters were asked directly how the President was doing. "Compared with the last two presidents or so, I think he has done a good job," Mr Michaels said.

Asked to grade the President, Mr Oplinger said: "Given everything he has to struggle with, I'd give him an A." Mrs Grogg, a lifelong Democrat, recalled that she voted for Mr Reagan. "I'm glad I did."

The Wall St Journal concludes that times are very tough for these blue-collar Americans: many have experienced layoffs of their immediate families over the past year. But they blame past government actions more than present policies. "I feel we're kind of on the bottom part of the graph, that we've been going down, hill since Reagan took over," said James Petty, a fence builder. "But I don't blame Reagan for this."

Kissinger clash, page 7



Three-up for these Afghan guerrillas leaving on reconnaissance missions in Kandahar province along tracks impassable to military lorries and tanks.

Houses built for Russians in Kabul

The building of more residential areas here for the families of civilian advisers is seen as further evidence that the Soviet Union plans a long stay in Afghanistan.

In Kabul the Russians live in tight security. The families of the estimated 10,000 Soviet civilian advisers shop in groups, travel in military vehicles and keep close to their guards. Afghan shopkeepers treat them with indifference and, at times, open hostility.

At the same time, the 30,000-strong Afghan army is in poor shape. The recruiting drive of last summer which required all men under 35 to report for

a second period of military service appears to have failed, in spite of generous pay increases. The army is thinly spread across 14 incomplete units. Morale is low, and the rate of desertion is high.

An estimated 10,000 men due to leave the army last month have not been demobilized, partly, it is thought, because the Russians do not want them to defect to the guerrillas.

The mujahidin guerrillas have kept 12 Soviet divisions fully stretched for two years trying to maintain a semblance of law and order.

Of about 15 big mujahidin groups operating within the country, six are actually important. They have depended on the terrain for shelter and popular sympathy for support, although the poverty of the Afghan countryside has restricted the latter and the Russians are quickly learning their way around the former.

Afghanistan's economy has steadily become more closely linked with that of the Soviet Union. The latest figures show that exports to Russia, mainly natural gas, have tripled. All Afghanistan's gas goes across the Soviet frontier.

NATO MOVE FEARED BY GREECE

From Mario Modiano Athens, Jan 21

The bizarre episode of a Turkish gunboat near Athens on a Nato mission has aroused concern here that the alliance may give in to Turkey's demand for a share of operational jurisdiction in the Aegean, which had been exclusively assigned to Greece.

The gunboat was sighted last week by the captain of a Greek island ferry three and a half miles off the southern tip of Euboea Island, inside Greek territorial waters. The news was leaked in an opposition newspaper and the Government promptly announced it had lodged a protest to Ankara for the violation of Greek sovereignty.

But 24 hours later the Turks rejected the protest. A Government spokesman in Athens said that the Turkish ship had not violated Greek territorial waters since it was entitled to do so under the rule of "innocent passage". The Greek Defence Ministry later said the authorities had been aware of the presence of the Turkish vessel, and added that the assignment to a Turkish unit of a Nato mission within the area of responsibility of the Greek Navy implied "an intention to alter existing arrangements on operational jurisdiction in the Aegean".

European Tories likely to oust their leader

From George Clark, Strasbourg, Jan 21

Soundings taken among members of the 63-strong Conservative (Conservative) Group in the European Parliament today indicated that Sir James Scott-Hopkins, MEP for Hereford and Worcester, is likely to be deposed as their leader at the group's annual meeting in London on February 11.

The favourite among the three challengers is Sir Henry Plumb, MEP for the Cotswolds and former president of the National Farmers' Union. It is believed that he would have the approval of Mrs Margaret Thatcher who has the leadership of the Conservatives in her gift.

But the group includes also one Ulster Unionist and two Danes and, theoretically, could elect someone of whom Mrs Thatcher disapproves. There are four candidates in the field: Sir James, Sir Henry, Sir Fred Catherwood, MEP for Cambridgeshire — former director general of the British Overseas Trade Board — and Mr John Mark Taylor, MEP for Midlands, East, a former leader of the Conservative Party in the West Midlands County Council.

Mr Brian Hord, MEP for London, West was mentioned as a possible candidate but he decided not to stand. Sir James is particularly

TERRORISTS JAILED IN VIENNA

From David Blow Vienna, Jan 21

A Vienna court today sentenced two Arab terrorists to life imprisonment. Muhammad Rajih, aged 21, and Hassan Marwan, aged 26, were both found guilty by a jury on a number of charges, including murder.

The charges arose from an attack they planned in August on the Vienna synagogue when two passers-by were killed and 20 injured.

In Austria, a life sentence usually means not less than 15 years' imprisonment. The trial left unresolved the terrorist murder of Herr Heinz Nittel, a Vienna councillor who was head of the Israel-Austria Friendship Society and was shot dead outside his home last May.

Mr Rajih had also been charged with this but the jury found him guilty only of complicity in the murder. The charges arose from an attack they planned in August on the Vienna synagogue when two passers-by were killed and 20 injured.

Mr Marwan also said that he felt free to carry out the attack after two Arabs who were arrested at Vienna airport for attempting to smuggle in arms were simply expelled from Austria.

Albanians begin the purge

From Dassa Trevisan Belgrade, Jan 21

As the Albanian media increases its praise for Mr Enver Hoxha, the party leader, with the intention to leave no doubt that he is firmly in command, the belief that the death of Mr Mehmet Shehu, the Prime Minister, was the result of a showdown between the two Politburo members strengthens.

It was given added credence in diplomatic reports of the disappearance of people who are believed to have had close connections with Mr Shehu.

Mr Shehu, nephew, Mr Fecor Shehu, who until last week was Minister of the Interior, was dropped in the cabinet reshuffle immediately after Mr Adil Carcani became the head of government — the only hard information so far offered by the Albanians themselves.

But, diplomatic sources in Tirana also believe that Mr Shehu's widow, Mrs Firceta Sandiaktari, has lost her post on the Central Committee and in the party's school of which she was the head. The latest report of a purge comes from Bucharest where it is believed to involve Mr Idrit Shehu, another close relative of the late Prime Minister, and a political counsellor at the Albanian Embassy.

According to the sources, before the Prime Minister's alleged suicide he was in Tirana. He did not return to his post and diplomats are inclined to connect his disappearance with the ousting of Mr Shehu's relatives and supporters.

But precise information on the fate of those who have disappeared has been given, as a rule, by Mr Hoxha personally and generally a long time after the event. Mr Hoxha has just recalled the history of Albania's relations with the United States and Britain in order to drive home the lesson that they were and remain bitter enemies of his regime.

The timing of the publication of what the Albanian news agency describes as the latest book of his memoirs devoted to alleged Anglo-American plots against Albania, may not be mere coincidence.

The news agency, emphasizing the importance of past lessons, has said that there is a need for vigilance in order to avoid "falling into traps". Publication is clearly designed to prove that the two countries were hostile to the Communist regime from the outset, although it does not necessarily put down arguments within Albania for the resumption of diplomatic relations or of Albania establishing closer links with the West.

Britain is especially singled out for its alleged wartime and postwar attitudes which, Mr Hoxha says, was aimed at putting the Albanian chiefs in power. The agency said the book should "enhance vigilance and open the eyes against sham friends in order not to be taken by surprise". At the same time it hails Mr Hoxha's "lofty revolutionary vigilance" and uncompromising attitudes in unmasking, defeating, and destroying "enemies".

Whether this is a prelude to a big purge is unclear.

Miners blown up

Craynor, Kentucky. — Seven miners, four of the same family, were killed in an explosion inside an eastern Kentucky coal mine.

Hill tribesman describes Laos chemical attack

From David Watts, Bangkok, Jan 21

A young resistance fighter has reached Thailand with evidence of a chemical attack in Laos last month.

After a month's trek through south-west Laos he told investigators that the attack had killed a number of his people, Hmong hill tribesmen, and left him with the symptoms associated with such reported attacks: dizziness, vomiting, diarrhoea and severe itching of the skin.

The man in his mid-thirties, said the attack took place on December 12 in a mountainous area mid-way between Vientiane and the old royal capital of Laos at Luang Prabang. This places the raid somewhat further north of previously reported chemical attacks in Laos.

He said that he was assigned to guard an agricultural area some distance from his home village in the Muong Kessy area on the day of the attack. As soon as he heard a jet aircraft approaching he took cover because he had been the victim of three previous gas attacks.

Reports have indicated the use of Soviet-built Mig 19 jet fighters in earlier chemical warfare raids, but the man did not see the aircraft as he stayed in a shelter until it had circled three times over the area and flown away.

His testimony is similar to other accounts of such alleged raids in which the aircraft apparently first circle the area for target

Labour poised to win Sydney by-election

From Douglas Aiton, Melbourne, Jan 21

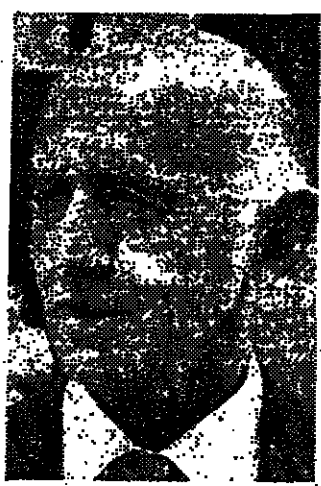
Australia's first serious political activity for 1982 will be the by-election for the Sydney seat of Lowe, to be held on March 13.

The by-election has been brought about by the retirement of the Prime Minister, Sir William McMahon, 73, was always something of a maverick in the Liberal Party and the timing of his resignation was in typical style. He chose a time when the Liberal Party was at its lowest ebb, and it is well known that the two men never saw eye to eye.

Sir William could have held on until next year's election. His earlier retirement can only damage the Liberal Party since he held a particularly sensitive seat and always held it by virtue of his own popularity with the electorate.

Yesterday even Mr Fraser conceded that it was unlikely that the Liberal Party could expect to hold the seat. On a radio programme he said that it was a disadvantage to the Liberals that Sir William had such a large personal following in Lowe; that there would be the normal anti-government sentiment by-election and that Sir William won only by a whisker anyway at the 1980 election.

He ended by saying: "Labour would have to win by an absolutely massive



Sir William McMahon: A political maverick to the end.

amount to be able to claim any significant victory."

Labour might do just that. In any case, they are almost certain to win the seat, because they need a swing of only 1.2 per cent to do so. Neither the Liberals nor Labour have yet named their candidate; but Mr Fraser is expected to start campaigning on February 22.

Sir William, as usual, unrepentant about his behaviour. He has had clashes with the Prime Minister and other Government leaders recently about the government handling of the economy.

Beware of the thaw in France, drivers told

From George Clark, Strasbourg, Jan 21

A warning to British lorry drivers and haulage firms to avoid French areas where a *barrière de dégel* (thaw barrier) is in force was given at the European Parliament yesterday by Mr Alasdair Hutton, Conservative MEP for South Scotland.

He has been told of the plight of a Scottish lorry driver, Mr Willie Sommerville, employed by Currie's of Dumfries, who was stopped on the road from Abbeville to Bernay in the Pas de Calais on Monday.

Carrying a 29-ton load of polyester film from the ICI factory in Dumfries to an ICI establishment in Switzerland, he was stopped and had his lorry impounded by the police who said that under French law once a barrier is imposed in a thaw area lorry weights on minor roads are restricted to 12 tonnes.

Mr Sommerville was taken

to court in Amiens and fined £150. He cannot move his vehicle fully loaded until the restriction is lifted.

After contacting his firm, he is trying to arrange for part of the load to be transferred to a small French lorry so that he can proceed on his way where there is no restriction and the load can be united and he can proceed to Switzerland.

Mr Sommerville reported that over 100 lorries are held up because of the restrictions.

Mr Hutton said the driver had claimed that the restriction was imposed after he had entered the area and he had no means of knowing about the restrictions.

The French authorities claim that the greatest damage is done to roads during wintery conditions when a thaw comes and that is why the weight restriction is imposed.

Tax purge ends Bonn party tricks

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, Jan 21

West Germany's political parties are searching for a face-saving way out of an embarrassingly tight corner.

Several ministers and prominent politicians are under investigation for alleged tax frauds to raise party funds.

All parties, government and opposition, are in this together. None can deny that for years it has used certain devices to get round the restrictive laws on political donations. Now the public prosecutors are on their tracks.

One trick, it is believed, was to use firms and well-wishers to send donations to supposedly charitable or public-service organizations which would then send them to party contacts abroad. These in turn would re-use the money — "washed" of its real origins — to the party in West Germany. Another was to have sent the money directly to abroad, which would send it back home.

The reason, it is thought, is that firms and organizations can claim substantial donations against their taxes so long as they are made to charitable or public welfare associations.

Donations to political parties can be set against taxes only if they are below DM1,800 (£400) in any year. Moreover, donors of sums over DM20,000 must be identified by name in the party's annual report.

At the same time the party receives the whole donation without paying tax on it. Another suspected trick was for firms to pay large sums of money for advertising in the various party organs which was never printed.

One politician under investigation is Herr Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the Economics Minister. A former treasurer for the North Rhine-Westphalia branch of his Free Democrat Party he is said to have headed several of these charitable organizations which allegedly accepted and rerouted such donations.

Another is Herr Walter Leisler Kiep, former treasurer of the Christian Democrat Union. The case comes as Herr Leisler Kiep is preparing to head a big election battle in Hamburg in which the CDU hopes to win the imported city from the Social Democrats.

Quietly, the parties have been working together to find a way out of their predicament. One idea was a kind of retroactive amnesty. The West German Government would under which anyone who owned up to tax evasion during investigations — and not just before investigations as at present — could not be punished.

However, a big section of the Social Democrat Party members would refuse to have any part in it. They maintained that the political world would lose credibility by protecting its own members while insisting that others, such as squatters, respect the law.

The outcry in the press and letters to newspapers from angry readers showed that they are probably right. The affair has already increased a widespread sense of disgust with party politics which is fuelling the fringe ecological and alternative movements.

At the same time the parties are racking their brains for substitute sources of funds. In any event, they can live in the manner to which they are accustomed.

Most foreign parties would envy them: their election campaign expenses are reimbursed according to the number of votes each receives. Their collective two million members contribute anything up to DM400 per head a year according to income. The CDU's subscriptions totalled DM10,358,000 last year.

The parties also received a total of DM80m in donations in legal ones, that is. The amount they are supposed to have received illegally has not been calculated.

Meanwhile, press commentators are suggesting what they are trying to make the public do — tighten their belts.

The Kissinger bombshell

Why I am critical of Reagan's foreign policy

by Henry Kissinger

Dr Kissinger, Secretary of State from 1973 to 1977, is the author of *The White House Years* and is Professor of International Relations at Georgetown University in Washington.

Washington

Every administration enters office determined to change the world. Sooner or later, sooner, if it is fortunate, it is forced to reconsider its assumptions and procedures. It is the making of the administration, if it is prepared to examine itself seriously and to draw the necessary conclusions. If that test is failed, if energy is expended on rationalizing the status quo, mounting crises and disarray are inevitable. In that sense, the grace period for the Reagan administration ended on Dec. 13 when tanks took over the streets of Poland.

During the months before the 1980 election, I campaigned for Ronald Reagan, convinced that a change was in the overwhelming national interest. I continued to believe that the administration embodied the best chance for free peoples, that its success is of vital importance for our country and that that depends on it. And yet it is precisely its friends who have a duty to warn when a crisis like Poland reveals serious and uncertain dangers that, if continued, may become unmanageable.

It took four weeks after military law was declared in Poland before the foreign ministers of NATO managed to assemble in council to consider a response. The Solidarity leaders were meanwhile in concentration camps; scores of intellectuals had been arrested; strikes had been broken; freedom-loving Poles who looked West saw dithering procrastinations, sophisticated justifications for impotence, or rhetoric incapable of rising to the occasion. And when the ministers at last met, the alliance expressed regret about Soviet complicity but then responded with a non sequitur — that action should be postponed.

The emptiness of the western reaction to Poland has consequences far beyond the tragedy of the Polish people. It underlines and compounds the disarray of the Western alliance. It symbolizes the lack of consensus on what constitutes security, and the near panic in the face of Soviet military power. Western diplomacy, which should reflect a balance between strength and conciliation, is in danger of turning into a safety valve by which the Soviets mitigate the impact of their aggressions. Trade and economic relationships originally conceived as incentives for Soviet restraint are becoming instruments of potential blackmail not used by us but against us.

Today the West seems clearly less prepared than Moscow is to interrupt these relationships. It would be some small comfort if this state of affairs could be left exclusively to European negotiations. European leaders have little to be proud of. But neither have we put forward a clear signal. European fecklessness is bedeviling an ally. It is not the sole cause of western difficulties.

Events in Poland no doubt presented the West with a seeming dilemma. We had no military option and it would have been wrong to conduct ourselves as if we had. The West has been understandably reluctant to encourage the Polish people into open resistance that we would not then support. On the other hand, statesmen are ultimately responsible for the consequences of dilemmas but by their ability to conceive alternatives.

From the first day of the repression in Poland, arguments for inaction have cascaded forth — and, if we are truthful with ourselves, not only from the West but from the Soviet side. We must not respond too vigorously or history would blame us if the Polish people decided to resist. It was also said that the West's response should be a measured one in order not to destroy the possibility of eventual tolerance for some diversity held out by the early proclamations of the Polish military government.

Then restraint was urged to remove the incentive for Soviet intervention. Next we heard that our allies must not be driven into neutralism by rash actions. In any event, we were told, Poland had been conceded to the Soviets by the Yalta agreement, which was legitimized by the Helsinki accords.

And now we hear that despite the flagrant violation of the Helsinki accords, the high-level diplomatic contact must continue and indeed be intensified. The worse the crisis, so the argument runs, the more important such contacts are — even a meeting of the Soviet and American foreign ministers, even a summit conference.

These arguments reflect the principle that existing frontiers in Europe would not be changed by force — hardly relevant to the situation in Poland. But it also established international standards on human rights — standards that are being flouted daily.

The problem of economic sanctions is difficult, but not maddeningly so as the West's response seemed to suggest. And the West had readily at hand an instrument even more significant than trade — Poland's colossal debt to



Ouch!

the threats of action unless conditions eased — missed the two principal points. First, time was on the Soviet side. The longer martial law lasted, the more likely was the collapse of resistance; conditions would ease visibly because opposition had been smashed. Second, the only chance of saving anything would have been a western reaction so immediate, so clear, so beyond rhetoric, so strong — and at the same time leaving open a road for negotiation — as to have given some pause to the Soviet Union and raise some thought of compromise.

The prospects for this were admittedly slim; but even these prospects vanished completely when the West carefully rehearsed reasons why nothing should be done, and so tacitly, if unintentionally, colluded with the martial law.

The fear of allied reaction to a more resolute policy seems to me similarly unwarranted. No doubt our allies expressed their unhappiness from the beginning about any effort to make the Soviets pay a heavy price. But I would argue that we were in a better position to challenge our allies over Poland, with respect to which I suspect European publics are more clear-sighted than their governments, than over the Middle East or Central America, which will be the next objects of contention. And, in the end, it is we who must lead in this alliance.

We have a duty to make clear that restraint must be mutual. We must defend the policy of coexistence by defining not only its possibilities but also its limits. If we equate policy with a consensus of the fearful, we encourage the sense of impotence that breeds pacifism. Moderation is a virtue only in those who are thought to have an alternative.

As for Yalta and Helsinki, there is something self-destructive in the principle that existing frontiers in Europe would not be changed by force — hardly relevant to the situation in Poland. But it also established international standards on human rights — standards that are being flouted daily.

The problem of economic sanctions is difficult, but not maddeningly so as the West's response seemed to suggest. And the West had readily at hand an instrument even more significant than trade — Poland's colossal debt to

western banks, and its admitted need for \$1,500m of new capital from the West every quarter in 1982 just to stay afloat.

And this — unlike trade embargoes, which almost daily pose questions about whether and how long they should be continued — requires only a single decision. Yet the sixth week of the crisis finds us still without a common policy on whether the allied governments will permit our private financial institutions to administer those essential transfusions of western savings into the Polish economy.

Whatever can be said about the difficulty of economic sanctions does not apply to diplomatic intercourse, however. Here the decision whether to proceed is in executive control; no congressional action is required. No private interests are at stake. Allied involvement in our bilateral dealings is at a minimum.

How then is one to reconcile the assertion that the Soviet Union is to blame for the suppression of Poland's freedoms with our continued participation in the Madrid Conference on the very Helsinki agreements that are violated so utterly in Poland? What is the compulsion to promote a Brezhnev-Reagan summit in these circumstances? What are our allies — and other interested parties, for that matter — to make of the simultaneous pursuit of sanctions and high-level talks?

We scarcely need Madrid to castigate the Soviet Union; Washington and the United Nations would serve the purpose equally well and less embarrassingly. Foreign ministers' and summit meetings can be useful, but not when their preparation goes blithely ahead — and is even accelerated — at the very moment that the first buds of freedom are being crushed in Central Europe. It cannot be national policy that we multiply high-level contacts during crises caused by the Soviet Union unless we want to give the Soviets an incentive to produce more crises.

I criticize with reluctance a foreign policy produced in part by many friends and former comrades of difficult battles. They and their colleagues retain my full confidence. I applaud their dedication to a policy of coexistence. But they will not achieve this goal unless they devise penalties for intransigence together with incentives for moderation. Peace, to be meaningful or lasting, must ultimately reflect not only an accommodation but a sense of justice.

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Shots fired in Mizoram clash

Delhi — The union territory of Mizoram in the northeast, was the scene of firing between the police and a group of the banned Mizo National Front (Kuldip Nagar writes).

According to official sources, there were no casualties. Aizawl, the territory's capital, has been under a dusk-to-dawn curfew since yesterday, and arrests were reported.

The mizos are fighting for an independent Mizoram and some of them have been trained in China and returned with weapons.

Killer typhoon

Jakarta — A typhoon which hit the central Java district of Sleman killed two people and injured 123. It had earlier struck the tourist island of Bali killing three villagers.

Kashmir claim to peace role

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad, Jan 21

The Kashmir dispute must be solved if there is to be any permanent peace between Pakistan and India, the former president of Azad Kashmir, now part of Pakistan, said here today.

Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim, who is chairman of the People's Party in his area, emphasized that the proposed Pakistan-India non-aggression treaty to be discussed by foreign ministers in Delhi next Friday would only be durable if they did not by-pass the Kashmir dispute.

If those talks were to include Kashmir, leaders on both sides of the border in Kashmir should be allowed to meet to discuss the issue, he said.

Sardar Ibrahim said he welcomed President Zia ul-Haq's efforts to seek peace with India; but the political parties in Azad Kashmir doubted if any serious peace effort could succeed without

the voice of all Kashmir people being considered.

Sardar Ibrahim, who has headed the Azad Kashmir government three times in 31 years, urged General Zia to restore the constitutional framework and democracy in Azad Kashmir. There was no valid ground to suppress the constitutional process.

He demanded that the Pakistan Army brigadier, acting as president of Azad Kashmir be replaced by an all-party government and legislative assembly elections.

The four-party alliance in Azad Kashmir would persist in its efforts to secure restoration of political government and democracy in Azad Kashmir and Pakistan, he said.

□ In Karachi and Lahore, political leaders are demanding General Zia takes concrete steps to restore civil rule in place of martial law

and hold elections under the 1973 constitution.

Informed sources said that a new alliance of opposition parties may be formed to work in collaboration with the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), which is a coalition of six parties. Both groups would work together to restore democracy.

They would attempt to establish a grand assembly, a symbol of the people's will. The assembly would consist of all those who were elected or defeated in the 1970 and 1977 elections to the National Assembly, and as a counter to General Zia's nominated federal council (Majlis-e-Shoorah), so that further steps to press the Government to hold elections and restore democracy could be taken.

The MRD is due to hold a meeting in Karachi next Wednesday. Begum Bhutto, widow of the late premier is expected to take part on behalf of the People's Party.

A divorce that should have been avoided

Washington

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has published in the pages of the *New York Times* and other major newspapers of the world a really tough criticism of United States and NATO foreign policy.

He hesitated to do so for a long time, but the Polish crisis, and the reaction to it by the Reagan administration and the Western allies, apparently alarmed and persuaded him to express in public what had troubled him in private for months; that may be the United States was getting into deep trouble. He decided to speak out, even if it meant an open break with President Reagan and the Republican Party.

Kissinger writes: "Freedom-loving Poles who looked West saw dithering procrastination, sophisticated justifications for impotence, rhetoric incapable of rising to serious action. The emptiness of the Western reaction

to Poland underlines and compounds the disarray of the Western alliance."

Obviously, this public attack by Kissinger on the Reagan administration and the NATO alliance has irritated Washington, including Kissinger's old friends in the State Department, who admire him but think his criticism is unfair. There is a tendency to believe that he is because he was identified with Richard Nixon, Vietnam and Watergate.

Also, he was an agent of Nelson Rockefeller, no friend of Republican conservatives. He was even rejected by his liberal colleagues in the universities, some of whom thought he was wrong on policy and many of whom were envious of his position in the State Department and the White House.

In addition, there are others, more objective, who reject his suggestions about what should be done about the Polish crisis.

Kissinger has launched a major attack on the administration's conduct of foreign policy, and has in effect separated himself from the leaders of his own party with a public bill of divorce.

All this is understandable but regrettable, and was probably avoidable.

He is no doubt disappointed that he is no longer at the State Department or in the White House. He knows better than Reagan how many enemies he has in the press, Congress and the universities. He therefore understands why he was rejected by the president. What I think he does not understand is why nobody in the administration was even interested in talking to him seriously and privately about his own concerns.

It is not at all clear that his criticisms are entirely right. If the Reagan administration had summoned the allies to declare Poland bankrupt, and cut off all high-level contacts

with Moscow, including the nuclear arms talks in Geneva and the grain shipments to the Soviet Union, and suggested that Henry should negotiate this proposition — the chances are that there would have been a crisis of major proportions in the alliance, even more than the present one.

Yet it is not clear why Kissinger and the White House need a public row with one another at this critical point. On foreign policy, Reagan needs all the help he can get, and he has a lot of help available to him from many leaders of both the Republican and the Democratic Parties, including Henry Kissinger.

Kissinger is only a symbol of the problem: Reagan could get a lot of help in Washington, as he has many potential supporters he has just forgotten to remember.

James Reston
New York Times columnist

David Watt

Why we should bail out the Poles

Last week I argued in this column that because Poland has lain for the last 38 years within the Soviet sphere of influence there are certain practical (though certainly no moral) constraints on the West's scope of action in liberating her and that we must be prepared to pay an unusually high price if we want to attain even limited aims there.

This week I want to pursue the discussion and I shall suggest first that we are in danger of setting ourselves unrealistic objectives in Poland, and second, that because we are unwilling to contemplate major economic sacrifices to back our words, we are losing chances of influencing events.

The present goals of the West, as agreed by the Nato foreign ministers in Brussels last week, are to bring about a lifting of martial law, the release of all detainees, and the resumption of the dialogue between the Government, the Church and Solidarity.

The existing economic sanctions against Poland are intended to bring about changes about, but if they are not successful, the Nato members are supposed to follow the American suit this weekend and apply economic pressures on Moscow.

This is fine as an opening Western bid, but the trouble will start when the time comes to assess the extent to which the Polish regime has complied with the Western conditions. What is meant by "a resumption of the dialogue"?

Does it mean that Solidarity is to be reconstituted just as it was? Must the discussion be fruitful, or does it only need to start? Are the far-reaching political implications of the Gdansk agreement signed by Solidarity and the Government in August 1980 promising the movement a leading role in Polish national life to be revived, or are we merely talking about the industrial purposes of a free trade union movement? In short, what is the aim of the restoration of the situation as it was just before the military clamp-down or not?

If we are, then we are asking the regime to allow Lord Carrington, discussing these matters with the Foreign Affairs Committee in the House of Commons last Tuesday, called a "rebellion" to be resumed. It is worth a try



Will General Jaruzelski (left) allow the resumption of what Lord Carrington called "a rebellion"?

perhaps, but it is important to recognize not only that it is inconceivable that Jaruzelski (still less Moscow) could allow such a radical and open-ended challenge to be revived without qualification, but also that we are looking at a frontal assault on the Soviet system of a kind we have never made before.

We have of course regarded it and rightly, as one of the ultimate aims of western policy to free eastern Europe from communism and undo the evil that the events of 1944 and 1945 brought to pass. But we have always tried to achieve liberalization by stealth as it were.

The prevailing theory, at least since 1955, has been that the way to produce change in the Soviet empire in a form and at a pace that would not alarm the Russians into precipitating repression was by promoting economic and consumer societies, and cautiously encouraging political links with the West. In this way there would be at least a sporting chance of loosening the eastern block without Soviet intervention.

It is by no means clear that the western powers are agreed about how far these tactics are still valid. Chancellor Schmidt of West Germany obviously believes they are. On the other hand, President Reagan and other American spokesmen sometimes talk as if nothing less than a full-scale resumption

of the "rebellion" will present relations between Washington, and Warsaw and Moscow falling into outright Cold War. Lord Carrington on Tuesday deliberately blurred the British position. On one hand he claimed that the Helsinki agreement on human rights had improved our moral right to insist on liberalization in Poland (which is true, but unhelpful in deciding what to do in the face of an unchanged balance of power in Eastern Europe). But on the other hand he refrained from defining the Nato position, except in the sense that "the dialogue within Poland should be resumed" — which may be something short of the status quo ante.

The practical outcome of this underlying argument is going to depend mainly on the US, since if the Reagan administration wishes Western relations with the Russians to go into cold storage, that is where they will go. Whether the European nations like it or not. But in deciding how to try to influence the American Government, the European allies have to weigh the rival claims of justice and order in the international system.

Justice demands that we free eastern Europe even if the heavens fall (though not, presumably, in the course of a nuclear war); order and the balance of power demand that the super powers should

exercise some restraint in their challenges to each other even if individuals and peoples continue to suffer oppression as a result.

In assessing this balance, the vital interests of the two sides are highly relevant. There is no more chance of our forcing the Russians to allow an early return to the situation in Poland at the beginning of December than there is of forcing the entire Politburo to jump off the walls of the Kremlin. And if we truly intend to insist we shall be harming ourselves and probably endangering the globe to no realistic purpose.

What we rather need is a strategy which will at least ensure as a minimum that Polish society is on the move again — that the complete freeze comes to an end and an evolutionary process resumes. In addition, we should fight hard to restart that process at as high a level as possible and to ensure that it moves as fast as possible thereafter, though we should not be surprised if neither speed nor level is as high as before.

It may be said that this is precisely what we are doing. The private, full-back position of President Reagan may be less far-fetched than it sounds and, if so, he would be perfectly entitled to claim credit for it. But the public demands very high is the only prudent way to deal with the Russians. But even if this is in fact so, two doubts remain. First the rhetoric arouses expectations in American public opinion that are bound to be disappointed if the process is slow. Second, a perennial source of trouble and insecurity in US foreign policy. More immediately though, it ensures that the Western position is stated almost entirely in negative terms. We are threatening such and such "unless" rather than offering so-and-so "if...". It is all stick and no carrot.

The Nato position states that unless the internal position in Poland is eased there will be no rescheduling of the huge Polish debts to the West, and the Foreign Secretary emphasized this corollary on Tuesday: that if the Nato points are met, the rescheduling would proceed and even that some new money might be found from Poland's official creditors. But it is not very positive stuff, and it is not clear whether we should not try to

supplement the threats by putting together a package which would provide an altogether bigger incentive to progress both now and in the longer run.

Last September *The Times* proposed a massive injection of Western aid to Poland in addition to the debt relief. Although the political and financial difficulties of doing this are certainly no less than they were, the advantages are as great as ever, if not greater. Such a scheme would bear closer relation to the true scale of the economic problem. It would reduce long-term dependence on the Soviet Union, it would ease Jaruzelski's difficulty in appearing to act under duress, and it would, if properly handled, keep up the pressure for many years.

Above all it would enable the West to present its political conditions to Poland in an economic guise — which is to say in a form in which they have some chance of being accepted. Even the most hardened of statesmen concede that there is no point in the West giving large sums of money if the Polish workers, especially the miners, are not going to cooperate.

If we were to demand evidence of a new social contract in Poland before we poured a great deal of good new money after bad, we would in effect be inviting the Polish Government and the Solidarity movement to come to an accommodation within the sphere of Polish internal politics. It may well be that such an understanding is simply not possible. But something would be lost in the offer — except that is, the financial commitment that might be involved if it were accepted.

That is the rub. The unwillingness of Western governments to think in these terms stems in part from an understandable disillusion with Polish fickleness, but mainly from the primacy of foreign ministries and domestic economics in current calculations. There is a price for freedom, and — where Poland is concerned — Americans as well as Europeans evidently feel whatever they may say, that they have paid enough and will pay no more.

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How far has Scargill been undermined?

The miners have spoken and their leaders must act accordingly. Out of the window goes much of the militant rhetoric of the Left, to be replaced next Tuesday by a rather subdued signing ceremony of the Coal Board's 9.5 per cent pay offer.

The pithead ballot result — exactly the reverse of what the Government expected and the National Union of Mineworkers' leadership intended — will be widely, and in some respects rightly, be read as a vote of no confidence in the hard-line policies of the incoming president, Mr Arthur Scargill, executive to win a "yes" vote for the strike.

Mr Scargill's case for rejection within the executive, and spread his propaganda as far and wide as the union's protocol permits, bearing in mind that the coalfield presidents enjoy the same independence as the territorial barons into whose territory it is unwise to step without an invitation. To a degree, therefore, the failure of the NUM executive to win a "yes" vote for the strike is a serious blow to the credibility of the Scargill reign even before it begins. But to what degree?

Significantly, the "old fox" himself, retiring moderate president Mr Joe Gormley, whose own record of error-instances told him to intervene on the eve of the poll with an unprecedented appeal to the men to reject the recommendation of his own executive, flatly refused yesterday to undermine his successor. No, he did not think that the Scargill presidency had been fatally flawed. Yes, he did think the Government should resist that temptation to crow over the vote.

Mr Gormley knows better than anyone that his impatient rival from the other side of the Pennines will take over on April 5 with the union's national executive in its greatest flux for a decade.

The 13-12 politically-based majority told him that he was not to be a "yes" man, but a "no" man. One moderate seat representing some surface workers and colliery men who belong by historical accident to the General and National Worker's Union, will cast a decisive vote in two months time. And Cumberland miners, whose executive representative Mr Harry Hanlon is being assiduously courted by the Left, actually voted against the offer. In short, the ruling Right-wing coalition that has run the union since it was formed at

the end of the last war is in a state of disintegration.

But the Gormley legacy is not an ironclad majority either for moderates or for the Left. As he argued yesterday, it is an obligation on Mr Scargill to derive his authority from the whole of the membership. The new man at the top will have to take into account the feelings of all the areas; and of the rank-and-file who never attend branch meetings but read the *Daily Express*; and of the colliers whose middle-class aspirations have got them in hock to the hire-purchase companies and the building societies. It can no longer be a case of "socialism in one country" — Yorkshire.

The scapegoating of Mr Gormley has actually served to shift some of the blame



Arthur Scargill: laying off the blame...

away from the poor performance of the Left and from the incoming president. He can point to Yorkshire's top-of-the-range executive result (marginally up on last time round), whereas the other traditionally militant areas recorded a sharp fall in strike backing.

By its own standards of militancy, Scotland turned in a bad result, South Wales and Kent were even worse. It may be no accident that all these areas face continuing pit closures. Ironically, the shift towards militancy — such as it was — came in the normally-moderate coalfields of Durham (up 2 per cent) and Nottinghamshire (up 7 per cent).

Cabinet ministers stayed aloof from the pit pay dispute, but not uninterested. Mr Nigel Lawson, the Energy Secretary, is reliably understood to have believed that the miners would give their

leaders authority to mount an all-out stoppage.

In that event, the Government would have played it long as to discredit Mr Scargill's confrontational tactics in the days before his takeover. But it was envisaged that the Cabinet could allow the Coal Board to give ground on one demand that would have a knock-on effect in the wider industrial scene.

This was the NUM's longstanding demand for retirement at 55, which the Government could concede without prejudicing the pay rise. But by laying off the blame, Mr Scargill has escaped the comprehensive collapse of credibility that might otherwise have attached to his name. If the NUM presidential contest were to be run again today, he would win again.

As he took his pint of black-and-tan and fended off yet more requests for signed articles to emulate his famous appearance in the *Daily Express* yesterday, Mr Gormley was still sanguine about the chances of his successor being pulled into a national "pitman" susceptible to the responsibilities of national office.

While he was uttering these sentiments, Mr Scargill was issuing an even more bitterly-worded condemnation of the man he succeeded, accusing him of "sabotage". Perhaps when the dust has settled he will ponder more substantially on the fact that in 1980, when the executive recommended that pay offer, the men voted by 56 per cent to accept; this time round, with a recommendation to reject, they voted by 55 per cent to accept.

There can be no clearer evidence that the miner makes up his own mind, and the attitude of the executive is peripheral unless it is the subject of a very well-organized campaign.

Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

What screening can do for your state of health

Twenty thousand men and 11,000 women now go for regular health checks to the British United Provident Association (BUPA) at a cost of £142 a time for men and £159 for women. The results of these screenings will be announced at a BUPA press conference today. Are such checks useful in detecting and preventing disease? If so, should the National Health Service undertake them?

For screening to be useful, it has to be proved that some diseases can be detected before symptoms appear, and that by treating them before the symptoms arrive the prognosis is improved.

Fortunately there are few diseases without symptoms. If you are unlucky enough to suffer the common complaints of arthritis, asthma, backache or chronic bronchitis, for example, you know about it.

But there are exceptions. Probably the most important is raised blood pressure, which can present no symptoms but which increases the sufferer's chance of heart attack and stroke. Since it is eminently treatable with drugs, most doctors agree that it is worth screening for.

Other hidden conditions which can be successfully treated and may justify screening are cancer of the cervix or breast in women,

diabetes and cancer of the bowel.

Even here there are the doubts, for in matters of screening there are two clear groups: the evangelists and the snails. The first want to screen everyone, even if the chances of detecting an abnormality are small and the cost per case is high. The second want to await the results of large-scale trials before any mass screening is started. Having said that, most experts do agree that screening for cancer of the cervix is worthwhile. Studies in Iceland and Finland strongly suggest that early detection and treatment reduces mortality.

Consequently, GPs are paid to carry out smears on women over 35 and family planning clinics will do a smear on any sexually active woman, whatever her age.

Cancer of the breast is also thought to have a better prognosis if detected early, and mass trials are going on to compare the cost-effectiveness of three types of screening: by X-ray (mammography), palpation by a doctor and self-examination by the women themselves. Mammography is generally

thought to be the best way of detecting very small lumps but is expensive. Examination by a doctor is also expensive in terms of time and can produce false positives. The last method might well prove to be the most cost-effective and the one adopted as general policy.

For cancer of the bowel, large-scale trials are going on in the Midlands to decide whether a simple test done by GPs for blood in patients' stools, which is a useful indicator for the presence of cancer, is acceptable to patients and doctors alike. If

it is, that might be adopted more widely. Screening for early diabetes is controversial as some doctors believe that treating it before symptoms appear does not improve the long-term prognosis. It just means the patient has the bad news several years earlier than necessary. Others disagree.

For none of these conditions, however, BUPA considers its health checks are most useful. Although many people might fight for screenings because they fear that, unbeknown to them, they have some

obscure treatable condition, BUPA does not consider that drinking too much is the most useful outcome of its service, and in fact relatively little is discovered.

What the screenings are good at is identifying those at risk from heart disease, the biggest killer of men over 35 in Britain, and at spotting incipient alcoholics.

Discovering whether someone is at risk from heart disease is relatively easy, four risk factors being well-known: whether a patient smokes, is overweight, has raised blood pressure and a

family history of the disease. Discovering whether he is drinking too much is also easy though a blood test for raised levels of gamma glutamyl transferase.

Persuading a patient to change his lifestyle is, however, a good deal harder. BUPA says that many of the men it has screened over the past ten years have given up smoking as a result of their screenings, but then smoking rates among middle-class men have been falling generally.

In the view of one self-confessed screening "snail", BUPA's health checks are a highly expensive form of health education. Dr Michael D'Souza, a lecturer in Professor Walter Holland's Department of Community Medicine at St Thomas's Hospital, London, helped to carry out a large scale survey of annual health checks for heart disease, diabetes, hypertension and Social Security in the 1960s and came down heavily against most of them.

The survey team discovered that a group of middle-aged people who underwent full-scale BUPA style annual health checks were no healthier over ten years than the control group,

who did not. It was estimated in 1973 that such checks nationwide would cost at least £200m.

The survey showed that many patients found to have raised blood pressure never took the tablets they were prescribed because they did not feel ill, and consequently did not improve their chances of survival.

But as a practising GP, Dr D'Souza is keen on certain methods of prevention. He screens his patients for smoking and raised blood pressure in an attempt to find methods that will work.

What few patients realize is that many of the things that private screenings provide can be obtained more cheaply, or free elsewhere, from family planning clinics for example, in the case of breast palpation and smears, from your own GP for blood pressure checks or from another GP for a limited private check-up.

A GP is not allowed to charge his own patients for any service, so is usually unwilling to perform a preventive check unless the patient has a particular cause for anxiety, such as a bad family history. But anyone can see a GP, other than his

own, on a private basis and for a fee have a preventive health screen.

Dr Frank Wells, under-secretary at the British Medical Association, said that for a fee of perhaps £15-£20 many GPs would provide a full clinical examination, blood pressure check and a urine test, which would show up early diabetes or hidden kidney disease.

Some GPs already do these things for their own patients as a matter of routine. Dr Jane Chomet, a GP in Crouch End, north London, for example, does a full check on all new patients.

She says her practice refers more cases of early diabetes to the local hospital than any other and has a high detection rate for kidney disease and cancers and pre-cancers of the cervix.

But while most GPs are usually willing to take the blood pressure of their patients over 35 and will carry out smears for women over that age, not so many will carry out urine tests to check for diabetes or undertake investigations to check for cancer of the breast of bowel.

So if a patient is worried about these conditions, he has to pay his money and take his choice.

Annabel Ferriman
Health Services Correspondent

The men who could stop a Ripper rerun

Sir James Crane, Chief Inspector of Constabulary and former head of Scotland Yard's fraud squad, is now closeted with the Home Secretary following the publication of the Byford report on the handling of the Yorkshire Ripper case. Their purpose is partly to consider the appointment of top police officers to advise constabularies throughout the country on cases of serious crime — one of Byford's recommendations. It is understood that the team will be small and high-powered.

Among suitable officers whose names are being mentioned by their colleagues, lawyers and criminologists are:

David Gery, assistant chief constable (crime) for the West Midlands police, who carried out the internal investigation into allegations against the police in the conduct of the Jimmy Kelly case in Liverpool, and who was subsequently drafted into the special four-man team formed to help hunt for the Ripper;

Colin Sargison, deputy chief constable of West Yorkshire, who carried out the internal police inquiry into the Ripper investigation last year;

Det Supt Ronald Sagar, deputy head of Humberdale CID, who made a heavy leading the police investigation into the Hull Prison riots of 1976 and more recently spent seven months tracking down the Hull arsonist who killed 26 people in 10 fires;

Peter Imbert, chief constable of Thames Valley, who was one of the main negotiators between the Metropolitan Police and the four IRA men during the Balcombe Street siege;

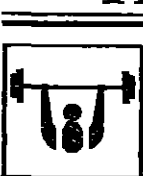
Other top policemen expected to be considered for the advisory team, which would be available as required, include Tony Tyler, deputy chief constable of Nottinghamshire and Peter Rawlinson, assistant chief constable (crime) at Strathclyde.

Computer experts are also expected to be drafted into a team which would harness the most detective and forensic talent in the country. It remains uncertain which officers from the Metropolitan Police might be included — Scotland Yard is awaiting the outcome of Home Office deliberations before discussing the question.

Canteen cuisine

If the four Walsall dinner ladies, who refused to join a union and were wretchedly dismissed as a result, are awarded compensation, I have a suggestion as to how they use the money. There must be many people like me who are sick and tired of smoke salmon, grouse and lobster and hankering after a return to the fatter recipes of school food. Odd, is it not, how some of these dishes are to be found nowhere else? I am sure readers have their own favourites but what I would not give for a restaurant that featured: *rosengræn* (junket); *gatau flocon* (cornflake cake); *mortadelle en crêpes* (luncheon meat in batter); *œuf et cresson*

THE TIMES DIARY

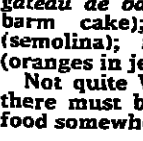


All being well, a dapper, ex-RAF man will arrive at the House of Commons next week with a mission to improve the physical fitness of Members. Provided the Commons gymnasium agrees, as it is expected to, Fitness for Industry, a company run by three ex-patriot officers (an ex-general, an ex-colonel and Jim Spicer, Tory MP for Dorset, West) will be granted a contract to assess the fitness of any MP who wants it, and will then recommend a course of training for the gymnasium.

FFI is barely nine months old

but appears to have tapped a rich vein of talent under the guidance of Director, which already has 300 subscribers, has recently opened another gym at the Excelsior Hotel at Heathrow, and has been contracted to do the same at Truhouse, Forte's Albany hotels in Birmingham and Glasgow. In each case, as in the Commons, a trained gymnast, either from the services or a graduate from one of our universities, is on hand to make an initial assessment of fitness (otherwise) and to design courses tailored to individual needs.

I sat next to Mr Spicer at a House of Commons lunch earlier this week. Judging by our respective waistlines, I had these services more than he does.



gâteau de barm (egg and cress barm cake); *semoule au lait* (semolina); *mandarin au gelée* (oranges in jelly).

Not quite Walsall, I know, but there must be a market for this food somewhere.

Brush with fame

Eliette von Karajan, the third wife of the Berlin maestro is about to ride somewhat unwillingly to celebrity on her husband's coat tails. The attractive French ex-model has cultivated a hobby for painting in oils while Herbert flies his jet around Europe in pursuit of his multiple musical interests (old Vienna joke: Karajan gets into a taxi. "Where to?" asks the driver.

"Doesn't matter," responds the millionaire musician, "I've got something going everywhere".

Eliette, who has hitherto stayed firmly in the background, has now been persuaded to decorate the covers of a series of reissued recordings by her husband.

not outer ones." But publicists are already promoting the pictures as "visual accompaniments to her husband's art". They would.

Chinese Burns

"Burns night" without haggis, bagpipes and kilts may seem on the face of it to be a contradiction of terms. But Peking's tribute to the bard on Wednesday evening was so sincere and dignified that it moved the audience even more than the shot of whisky in polystyrene mugs provided by courtesy of Jardine Matheson, Scottish pioneers of the China trade.

Held in a small theatre organized by Patricia Wilson, assistant to the well-known English scholar and translator, Yang Xianyi, who showed great enthusiasm for the occasion, Chinese performers sang "Ye Banks and Braes" and "Comin' Through the Rye". "Tae a Moose" was nicely done, and one of the Chinese girls made a credible attempt at reciting in the broad Scots tongue. A kilts was seen, alas — the Chinese would have been interested to see one of Britain's national minorities in full gear.

Stage fright

Anthony Field, the Arts Council's director of finance, is unhappy about the seat prices being charged at Drury Lane from April 12 for the revue, *Not in Front of the Audience*, by the Not in Nine O'Clock News team.

Writing in *The Stage* he says (in his personal capacity) that he



is horrified to see stalls and circle at £8.50, upper circle at £7, balcony at £5.50. Add the costs of meals and transport and this narrow-pricing differential is, he says, the theatre's way of ensuring it will have no audience at all in 30 years' time. And he goes back 30 years to get to the root cause of the problem.

Top priced seats were too cheap, though the price range was right, he feels, maintaining that what was previously 15s (75p) stalls are correctly priced today at between £8.50 and £12.50 — but that correspondingly the old 2s (10p) gallery seats should now cost no more than £1. He concludes nowadays young coup-

les can ill afford £11 for two balcony seats while £17 for a pair of circle seats is too cheap.

An interesting analysis, says Vincent Burke, of the Society of West End Theatre, but unnecessary exaggeration. It takes no account of the fact that theatres and producers are using a variety of methods to ensure that future audiences are retained.

Signing off

One other thing. This is the last Diary from me. Next week I will be pouncing the pavements of New York for this newspaper. My thanks to the hundreds of readers who have written in with tips (however misleading) and jokes (however old). No thanks at all to those expatriate New Yorkers at dinner the other night who sent me on my way with these one-liners:

"The faces in New York remind me of people who had played a game and lost." — Murray Temple.

"In New York City, the common bats fly all at twilight. Brick-bats fly at all hours." — George Prentice.

"New York is not the cultural centre of America, but the business and administrative centre of American culture." — Saul Bellow.

New York is not the centre of the goddamn universe. I grant you it's an exciting, vibrant, stimulating, fabulous city, but it is not Mecca. It just smells like it." — Alan Alda in *California Suite*.

See what risks I'm taking.

Peter Watson



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

KING JOE AND ARTHUR

The unexpectedly large majority in the miners' ballot to accept the Coal Board's offer of 9½ per cent is good news for Britain, for Mrs Thatcher's government and for the miners themselves. It is not good news for Mr Arthur Scargill, whose personal and political judgement were shown to be clearly at fault. Instead of railing at his President, Mr Gormley, for speaking his moderate mind, he should acknowledge that his veteran leader was more in touch with the grassroots. Mr Gormley did well to speak out, but by suggesting that everyone merely did what Joe told them to do Mr Scargill under-rates the capacity of miners to think for themselves. King Arthur will have to learn that his subjects have minds of their own.

Contrary to much public and political suspicion, the miners are not in fact usually quick into confrontation — though when they do decide to strike it is with formidable solidarity. The requirement to conduct a ballot of all members is also itself a protection against hot-headed anger or trouble-seeking executives. In the trade unions, as in the Labour Party, widespread democratic participation often results in support for a good moderate case, which is presumably why left-wing politicians and union leaders prefer to consult a caucus rather than their full membership. Mr Tobitt should now feel renewed encouragement to pursue the extension of the ballot, for officers as well as

for actions, in Britain's industrial relations field.

Individual miners — and their wives — will have calculated the potential gains and certain losses of strike action. At present they are doing very well. They have risen very rapidly to the top of the earnings table, benefiting greatly from the new productivity scheme which Mr Scargill earlier recommended them to reject. They may also have remarked the Prime Minister's recent determination to resist large pay settlements and decided that it was not worth an inevitably long and costly battle for the sake of an extra couple of per cent. They listened to common sense rather than the political rhetoric of Mr Scargill: when he takes over as President he might be advised in his own interests more often to follow their example.

The miners' settlement is good news for inflation in the sense that had it gone wrong then this pay round would probably have gone seriously awry with it. Now the water workers have settled around a similar figure and the power-electricity supply workers, who usually take their cue from the miners, may be expected to fall into line. Providing that the central and local government employers hold equally firm with their own civil servants and with the teachers and the Health Service auxiliaries, then there is a good prospect of emerging from this round with a single figure outcome on earnings, which is well below the rate of inflation.

The gilt-edged market is already beginning to bloom with satisfaction at these developments and prospects, though too much optimism would be premature. We are still a long way from victory in the war against inflation. The miners' 9½ per cent, the water workers 9 per cent, the lamentable 7 per cent to the local government employees, and similar anticipated settlements elsewhere in the public sector must all be set against the ambitions of an average 4 to 5 per cent pay factor on which the Government has based its latest macro-economic forecasts. Some of the pay excess is of course being compensated by large productivity increases, but these gains may prove temporary, relating to this particular stage of the recession. The fact is that 8 to 9 per cent would still be a high base from which to launch the next pay round. That will span much of the run-up to the next general election when expansionary sentiments will grow rampant and the willingness to resist the pay demands of large groups of voters will inevitably diminish.

After celebrating the miners' good sense, the Chancellor knows that he will still need some luck with interest and exchange rates and some manipulation of the tax system to get inflation at the level he inherited. Certainly it would be imprudent to introduce in the coming budget any measures which significantly increase it.

MR BEGIN UNITES HIS FOES

Mr Begin has got away with it — for the time being. His government's annexation of the Golan Heights has been greeted by much international huffing and puffing, but little else. In the United Nations Security Council the Syrians were unable — after weeks of manoeuvring — to muster enough support for mandatory sanctions against Israel, and the watered-down version put up by the Jordanians went down to an American veto, with Britain among others abstaining. At home, Mr Begin is applauded for his defence of Israel's national interests and defiance of her enemies. He may yet come under pressure from the United States. But since Washington confined itself to words of disapproval after the Israeli raids on Lebanon and Iraq last year, Mr Begin presumably has little to fear. Mrs Kirkpatrick, the American Ambassador at the United Nations, has in any case endorsed the juridically-unsound Israeli view that since Golan already "belongs" to Israel, it cannot have been "annexed".

There are however cogent reasons why Mr Begin should not feel complacent when considering the longer term, but should rather heed those — and they include Israelis — who warn of the dangers ahead. There is the question of Egypt, which the Israelis appear to assume will adhere to its treaty obligations under President Mubarak's leadership. In this they may be right. But such a course does not preclude an Egyptian return to the Arab fold once

the whole of Sinai is safely back in Egyptian hands in three months' time, assuming that it is. Even without Egypt, the Arab world has been drawn together by successive Israeli actions. By adopting a belligerent stance, Mr Begin is not scattering his foes, but uniting them. One of the most striking consequences of the Golan annexation has been the rapprochement between radical Syria and conservative Saudi Arabia, with the accompanying suggestion that the Saudis might restore their ties with the Soviet Union, thus bringing Moscow back onto the Middle East stage.

There are lessons here for the Western powers, as they consider how the post-April vacuum might best be filled. It is still possible that some formula for Palestinian autonomy will be found before Sinai is handed over, thus enabling the Americans to say that Camp David is to be continued. But Mr Haig's busy activity over autonomy is due not so much to hope of imminent success as to a desire to keep Israel talking, and thus prevent any further annexations or incursions. The way forward lies through negotiations which build on the achievement of Camp David, but involve the Palestinians directly. The inclusion of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, desirable in itself, depends upon its willingness to give proper recognition to Israel. The seeds of that were contained in the proposals put forward by Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia last year. If the abandoned Arab summit is to be re-

convened, as has been suggested, the Fahd plan may well be recovered from the rubble of Fez and given new life, with the Syrians joining in return for Arab support over Golan.

But if there is to be any progress after April, Israel must be given cast-iron guarantees of security, so that it no longer feels surrounded by hostile neighbours whose aggression it has constantly to anticipate. This has been something of a European blind spot, and Lord Carrington's proposed visit to Israel to explain European attitudes is both welcome and well timed. The Arabs, moreover, have to acknowledge that one of the reasons why the Camp David accords have run into trouble is Arab refusal to take advantage of the opportunities for peace which Camp David offered.

Equally, the Arab states have the right to expect that Israel will cease annexing Arab lands, and will stop building settlements on the West Bank of the kind which would make even the limited autonomy envisaged under Camp David difficult to implement, let alone any more elaborate form of Palestinian self-government. If Mr Begin is not restrained, either by more far-sighted Israelis or by the United States, or both, then moderate and radical Arabs alike may well adopt hardline positions after April, perhaps with Russian support. That is not the way to Middle East peace, nor is it in Israel's national interests.

STILL LEFT UNEXPLAINED

As a law officer, Mr Nicholas Fairbairn should have known better than to speak to the press about a particular case in the way he did on Wednesday, especially when he was due to make a statement to Parliament the next day. His resignation last night as Solicitor General of Scotland followed a display of ineptitude at the dispatch-box almost as lamentable. Far from shedding new light on the circumstances surrounding the decision to discontinue the prosecution of the alleged attackers in the Glasgow rape case, he only managed to confuse the House of Commons more thoroughly. Most of the issues arising from the case remain inadequately explained.

The statement by the Lord Advocate, Lord Mackay, which Mr Fairbairn read out, was informative as far as it went. But it did not go very far. In particular, it left unexplained the reasoning behind the decision to drop proceedings after it was decided that the victim was not in a fit state to give evidence. She is now reported as saying that she was prepared to give evidence, though Mr Fairbairn claims that the psychiatrist's report was adamant that there was a risk of

suicide if she did. Whatever her mental condition at the time, no satisfactory explanation has been given for taking the irreversible step to drop the charges, rather than allow the possibility that they could be revived at a later stage.

The main area of uncertainty concerns the evidence against the youths other than that which depended on the victim's own testimony. The Lord Advocate's statement says merely that "the view was taken by Crown Counsel that in the light of all the circumstances in the absence of the complainant it would not have been proper to proceed". That is rather different from Mr Fairbairn's reported remarks to the press that the evidence was insufficient. Mr Fairbairn himself failed to clear up the discrepancy and refused to give any details as to the evidence in issue. The Scottish Daily Record, however, has claimed, with supporting documentation, that one of the accused youths had made a voluntary confession, that there was another statement from a Crown witness, who had been originally charged, and some forensic evidence linking one of the accused to the assault.

If such evidence was indeed available to be given at the trial, then it appears — on the surface at least — that the prosecution would not have been a hopeless one, even without the victim's own evidence. As the Law Officers have refused to give any further details of the evidence, or of any other factors taken into account, it is impossible to say with certainty whether the decision not to go ahead with the prosecution was or was not justified.

The Lord Advocate and his Crown Counsel are rightly given considerable discretion over decisions to prosecute. In this case a strong impression is left that the discretion was exercised wrongly. The possibility remains of a private prosecution. Although there were calls in Parliament yesterday for a judicial or parliamentary inquiry, it is not apparent that this would serve any useful purpose. The decision cannot be reversed. Whatever view is taken of the exercise of the prosecutors' discretion in this instance, one lapse, however sensational, does not impugn or shake confidence in the Scottish system of justice.

Japanese aid with defence burden

From Mr Julian Amery, MP for Brighton Pavilion (Conservative)

Sir, Your leading article, "Protection on a leash" (January 20) underlines how difficult it is for the industrialised West to criticise Japan's economic policies. The Japanese have been practising for years — and with great success — most of the economic virtues which we preach to our own peoples. This makes it hard to ask them to buy goods which they don't want, or to invest abroad if they can get a better return at home.

There is, however, one sector, not mentioned in your article, where Japan could help to correct the current imbalance in her trade position. That is defence.

The Japanese economy has not carried anything like the burden of defence expenditure which the European Community, and still more the United States, have carried for a generation. And yet Japanese access to oil, raw materials and markets, as well as the relative world stability which has made the Japanese "miracle" possible, have all depended on the precarious balance of power maintained hitherto by the West.

This balance of power has now been put in question by the attainment of military parity, if not superiority, by the Soviet Union. In these circumstances can the Japanese reasonably expect to continue enjoying a free ride on the back of Western defence budgets?

The Japanese Constitution may make it impossible for the Japanese Parliament to increase its national defence expenditure as fast as Japan's interests would seem to dictate. But would it not be open to the Japanese Government to contribute to their own security by providing massive finance in the shape of interest-free defence loans to the West or even aid for specific projects, e.g. the maintenance of Western power in the Gulf, the Indian Ocean and the Pacific?

Such an involvement in Western defence policies should lead in due course to Japanese opinion recognising the need to take upon itself a greater share of the burden of our common defence. Meanwhile it would go far to defuse the fiction to which their own economic success has given rise.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN AMERY,
112 Eaton Square, SW1.
January 20.

Close examination

From Mr Peter Marshall

Sir, Mr Ivor Crewe, writing in your columns about the Glasgow constituency of Hillhead (January 15), claims that "no other constituency has as high a proportion of electors with two A levels to their name".

At the A level is a purely English examination and Scottish pupils sit their own Higher Grade examinations, then the risks for the Alliance in fielding the non-Scottish Mr Jenkins as its candidate may not be so great as we have been led to suppose.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MARSHALL,
Lisnacall,
Kirkwall, Orkney.

Accents uncertain

From Mr G. M. Lee

Sir, Your third leader for January 16 says of the Greek accents that they were "introduced by the Alexandrians as a way of marking the stressed syllables". This seems a rather misleading statement of the case.

The accents were in fact devised by the Alexandrian grammarians to mark, not stress, the accents of the Greek language, which was a musical pitch, which was disappearing from use in the Hellenistic world. With the suppression of the pitch accent by the stress accent these signs came to be used to mark stress (as in modern Greek) but that was not their original purpose.

Yours,
G. M. LEE,
128 St Michael's Road, Bedford.

Informed or instructed?

From Mr Andrew Acland

Sir, While reading your most interesting Guide to Information Technology last Thursday (January 14) I could not help recalling the now Ludite cry of T. S. Eliot in *Choruses* from "The Rock":

"Where is the knowledge we have lost
In Information? ...
The Information Revolution
will perhaps, like sliced bread
and instant mash, create a
cleaner, more efficient and more
convenient world, but how long
will it be before there is a
Campaign for Real Knowledge?"

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW ACLAND,
The Houseboat Orpheus,
Chelsea, SW10
January 18.

Public inefficiency

From Mr Mervyn Jones

Sir, Your first leader (January 15) well diagnoses the sad symptoms of inefficiency and consumer and social unconcern in our public industries. Their fundamental malady is the smug, monopolistic, self-satisfied and satisfying monopoly most now are. Sir Peter Masefield, Chairman of London Transport in his letter on the same page ("LT looks ahead") prescribes the crucial cures.

Studies in private-sector industry in America in the 1960s established that the largest companies, more than \$100m turnover, have the lowest rate of return, i.e. profitability, and the smallest, under \$1m turnover, the highest. Your leader was so right in urging more references of

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Understandings' in the rail dispute

From Mr Jonathan Parker QC

Sir, Sir Peter Parker tells us (January 18) that the issue which took the BR Board and the rail unions to 'Acas' last August was BR's insistence that increased pay should be linked to increased productivity. Yet the result was not one "understanding" but two: one relating to pay; the other to productivity, and neither apparently containing any reference to the other. So if this was the issue it would seem to have been resolved emphatically in the unions' favour.

But wait. What have we here? A minute, signed by all parties. Can this be the missing trick? The minute says apparently, that the pay award was acceptable to BR "on the understanding that the commitments on productivity would be honoured". But it says nothing as to the basis on which the unions accepted the pay award. They do not take a different view, as BR must have known.

Then what were the "commitments on productivity" to which the unions accepted the pay award? Parker tells us that item (c) of the "productivity understanding" provided that "negotiations shall take place" about varying rostering agreements, and that "these discussions shall be concluded by October 31, 1981". As a commitment that appears hopelessly vague, if not totally meaningless.

In any event, Sir Peter also tells us that Aslef did enter into negotiations with BR (so that the first half of the "commitment" would appear to have been fulfilled); and that it was "only after some three months of negotiations" that BR concluded that Aslef had no intention of modifying the eight-hour day. That takes us into November, 1981. So if there was a breach of

Whooping cough dangers

From Dr John Potter

Sir, The Department of Health and Social Security has recently been criticised for not doing enough to encourage whooping-cough vaccination. In fairness to the department I should like to try to redirect some of this criticism towards all those who have so frightened parents, by emphasising the small risks of vaccination, that some 60 per cent of our young children are now unprotected against the much greater dangers of the present epidemic.

It seems that the DHSS may have paid some attention to the clamour of those sincere but misguided people, thereby perhaps preventing a few vaccination tragedies. Even if it did this, the department itself should not now have to face all the blame for what are likely to be the even graver consequences of the present epidemic.

The present sorry business illustrates the mess a welfare state gets into if it comes to believe that every medically-induced misfortune should if necessary be compensated through litigation, even when there has been no negligence. There are serious implications in all this not just for preventive medicine, to which so much licence is paid, but for medical treatment generally. Doctors can often do little more than point the way to a public-health measure, thereafter it becomes a legal issue. If it becomes also a legal one, then "defensive medicine" will be increasingly practised by politicians and the DHSS, just as in ordinary clinical practice physicians and surgeons are already becoming detectably reluctant to carry out certain forms of treatment which inevitably carry a degree of risk, even though the dangers of not treating are greater.

It is clearly against the public interest that this state of affairs should get any worse and some system of indemnity is needed to protect not only patients but the reputation of those whose duty it is to administer preventive and therapeutic measures and who do so in good faith and without negligence.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN POTTER,
Director of Postgraduate Medical Education and Training,
University of Oxford,
Medical School Offices,
John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford.

Poland and the West

From Mr E. P. Thompson

Sir, Dr Lawrence Freedman (January 6) is usually complacent. It is true that the present alliance system in Europe disallows any real assistance to the West by the Poles, or for that matter the East to the Turks. But there has been a great deal of Western rhetoric which has suggested otherwise; and we are now hearing voices as diverse as those of President Carter and of General Haig which suggest that the "Valta" division of Europe should be brought to an end.

Yes, it should. But how? Dr Freedman affirms confidently that Poles are not interested in the disarmament movement in western Europe and he appears to regard this as a matter for general Western self-congratulation.

Members of the Western peace movement have had a great many discussions with Poles in the past year — both open and confidential — and with members of Solidarity, of government, academics and "loners". I cannot generalise with Dr Freedman's confidence but it was our experience that many Poles, when they turned their minds to questions of security, were preoccupied quite as much with conventional armaments as with nuclear weapons.

A policy restricted to nuclear disarmament alone was inadequate to the Polish situation. What alarmed and alarmed the Soviet military was a situation in which there would be a heavily-armed (nuclear and conventional) Western Germany, while the major routes to Soviet forces in

East Germany were placed in hazard by the "Westernising" of Poland.

We have attended to Polish (and Czech) criticisms and proposals with care. That is why, in my recent article (December 22, 1981) I drew attention again to the Rapacki Plan. In its final form (1958 and 1962) this Polish plan linked nuclear disarmament in the two Germanies, Poland and Czechoslovakia with phased reductions of conventional armament on both sides.

I am not saying that the plan was perfect, nor do I wish to reopen the argument as to why it was then rejected by NATO. I am arguing that the most substantial help which the West could bring to the Polish people would be urgent proposals for the demilitarisation of central Europe. This alone would allow the political space within which the Polish people could conduct "institutions" into the European security system.

The objective of these proposals must be the phased withdrawal of both NATO and Soviet forces from central Europe. The repudiation of "Valta" cannot be demanded from one side only. Space for the growth of political freedom in Poland and, in time, in Eastern Germany and Czechoslovakia can be won only by NATO concessions — also, above all, in cancelling the new missiles and in the progressive demilitarisation of West Germany.

Yours, etc.
E. P. THOMPSON,
Wick, Worcester.
January 14.

Care of mental illness

From Professor K. Ravensley and others

Sir, In view of the current debate about new mental health legislation, we believe that it would be appropriate to state the views of the Royal College of Psychiatrists on some of the major issues.

Both mental illness and mental handicap encompass a wide range of conditions and the vast majority of those suffering from these disorders do not require hospital treatment and many do not consult doctors. In the case of mental handicap, most patients can receive care outside hospital, but a small significant minority of severely mentally handicapped individuals do have disturbances of behaviour which constitute a danger to themselves or occasionally to other people which justifies some form of detention and hospital care.

It is essential that the needs of this group are provided for in mental health legislation without the risk of prejudice and alienation which may result simply from a change of name. Understanding is much more important and the needs of those already in hospital must not be forgotten.

We welcome the proposal to create a Mental Health Act Commission to oversee and protect the interests of individual detained patients, but regret that its activities exclude a responsibility for informal patients, who

constitute over 90 per cent of hospital cases.

We recognise that there is considerable controversy concerning the question of consent to treatment by detained patients and we welcome the Bill's acceptance of the need for emergency treatment in some cases and for the involvement of an independent medical examiner when a patient's ability to give informed consent is impaired.

We believe that the opinion of an independent consultant appointed by the commission gives the best chance, nearly always, of the question of consent, but also of acceptance by the responsible consultant where an alternative form of treatment is proposed. We do not consider that mental health tribunals could carry out this task satisfactorily or practically.

At the end of the day legislation alone will not guarantee good practice. In addition to the need for psychiatric services to be given a fair share of available resources, sympathetic understanding of the problems affecting psychiatric patients and support for their caring staff are, in our view, more likely to achieve what we all desire.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH RAVENSLEY,
GERALD TIMBURY,
ROBERT BLUGLASS,
The Royal College of Psychiatrists,
17-Belgrave Square, SW1.
January 20.

The buyer's premium

From the Chairman of the Society of London Art Dealers

Sir, Frances Gibb (report, January 14) misinformed your readers when she said that the Society had "capitalised" to a demand from the Office of Fair Trading for their evidence over alleged collusion between Sotheby's and Christie's in the introduction of the buyer's premium.

At no time has the Society refused to inform the OFT of our evidence. The Director General's request happened to be made when our three-month settlement period with the auctioneers still had a few weeks to run. Of course his letter cast a quite new aspect on what, up to that time, had been a private dispute and so we asked him if he would be good enough to "stay his hand" for just a little while. Seven years had slipped by between the introduction of the premium and our receipt of the letter, so we saw nothing to prevent ever remiss about the elapse of a few more weeks in order that we, like Christie's, could honour the spirit of the settlement and also consult our membership.

Your second leader (January 16) admirably sets out your view, which we entirely share, about the buyer's premium, but I have become convinced that any official effort to persuade Sotheby's and Christie's to abolish it will in fairness need to have legal backing in order to defend the interest of these two houses against one another and against their London rivals.

I can foresee no real problem of the auctioneers' British business going abroad. The United States authorities would soon follow suit and as for the French — well, it was their buyer's commission and taxes which helped bring the business to London in the first place.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BASKETT, Chairman,
The Society of London Art Dealers,
173 New Bond Street, W1.
January 18.

Proper names

From His Honour Judge Brian J. F. Galpin

Sir, Some time ago the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre at Swansea sent me a new driving licence, describing me as "His Brian John Francis Galpin".

I now drive secure in the knowledge that I nothing lack if I am His.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN J. F. GALPIN,
St Bruno House,
Charters Road,
Sunningdale, Berkshire.
January 16.

Proper places

From Mr Robert R. Rodwell

Sir, American inability to cope with British honours and titles is well known. I remember attending a formal dinner at USAF headquarters at Ruislip, Middlesex, in the late 1950s at which the guest of honour was to be the Viscount of the Isle and Dudley, the then Secretary of State for Air.

Lord de l'Isle arrived at the top table to find that two places had been set for him.

Yours faithfully,
BOB RODWELL,
63 Sandown Road, Belfast.

THE ARTS

Cinema

Passion without enough power

Body Heat (X)

Warner West End,
ABC Fulham Road,
ABC Bayswater

The Woman Next Door (AA)

Curzon

Escape Route to Marseilles

ICA

Fort Apache, the Bronx (AA)

Odeon Leicester Square



Fanny Ardant in Truffaut's *The Woman Next Door*

Hot on the heels of Ivan Passer's *Cutter's Way* comes another striking American thriller, *Body Heat*. Hot is the word: the action pointedly takes place in soaring temperatures deep down in Florida. Bodies sweat, electric fans whirr, the air is impenetrable.

Ned Racine, a lawyer with a roving eye, meets Matty Walker, a predatory female itching to be rid of her unattractive but wealthy husband. A murder is planned, executed and discovered.

The story outline certainly wins no marks for originality, and was never intended to. For writer-director Lawrence Kasdan conceived the venture in full knowledge of those Hollywood thrillers now grouped under the French tag film noir, just as he wrote *Raiders of the Lost Ark* in full knowledge of Hollywood's all-action adventures.

The film is particularly close to *Double Indemnity*, Billy Wilder's brilliant treatment of James M. Cain's story, in which Fred MacMurray's insurance agent helped Barbara Stanwyck do away with another unwelcome husband.

But *Body Heat* is no stuffy museum piece, for Kasdan assiduously updates his genre. The sexual tension once pinned back by terse, allusive dialogue now breaks loose in scenes of love-making fated to be described in some newspapers as "sizzling". Words of four syllables perform the task previously done by glaring looks.

Kasdan has also cast the

film (his first as director) with an astute awareness of his performers' physical allure. William Hurt (from *Altered States*) effortlessly presents the lawyer as a smooth gigolo with finely Establishment trappings, while Kathleen Turner (a cinema newcomer) shows the carnal instincts of her character in every toss of the hair, every husky syllable.

Indeed, the film's climate is so heady that it frequently clogs up the narrative momentum, though after the murder the plot thickens sufficiently to compensate. Kasdan's overall achievement is similarly variable. At times he achieves extraordinary visual effects (take the shots of Matty alone in the house, taunting and enticing Racine through the window); at others he achieves extraordinary effort.

One suspects that much of the credit already heaped upon Kasdan for the seductive visual surface should probably be given to his photographer, Richard H. Kline, a magician previously responsible for the sultry hues of *Mandingo* and the cold, clinical images of *The Andromeda Strain*.

The end result of all this style and ambition is an entertainment curiously similar to *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, directed from Kasdan's script by Steven Spielberg. Both are high-powered exercises in Hollywood pastiche; both have an exotic surface with insufficient substance underneath.

Violent desires are also at heart of François Truffaut's *The Woman Next Door*, but the body heat of this film would hardly show on a thermometer. The style is cool and elegant even when the characters are sobbing on the ground or huddled in a hectic embrace. The film's events stem from one of those magical coincidences that always occur in Truffaut's universe. The former lovers find themselves living as next-door neighbours in a cosy village near Grenoble — both are now married and happily so.

But the old flames of passion are rekindled, chiefly in a rented hotel room, ultimately the emotional strains become too great and tragedy beckons. The man in the case is Gérard Depardieu, that excellent actor of awkward shape; the woman is Fanny Ardant, a haunting, dark beauty.

Coming after the artful confection of *The Last Metro*, which occupied the same cinema in London for a good part of 1981, this seems a fairly flimsy piece of work. To be sure, there is nothing amiss with Truffaut's execution. Scenes are unfussily composed and edited, apart from one charming use of the iris effect (a rare sight now) where the focus closes in on Fanny Ardant's radiantly perplexed face.

There are endearing details that only Truffaut would give us: the telegram boy's roundabout delivery of his message at the sports club; the two lovers repeatedly phoning each other at the same moment.

The trouble is that the Truffaut of *Beauvoir's Voler* or *La Nuit Américaine* would have given us so much more. He would have moved closer to his characters, filled out the background of the village.

After Truffaut's suspect charm and facility, the rigours of his presentation at *Marseilles* appear doubly bracing. This is a 3½ hour German film about the harried flight of German refugees (mostly intellectuals) through the occupied and "free" zones of France to

Marseilles and — they hoped — safety.

One cannot call it a documentary, for the film-makers, Ingemar Engström and Gerhard Theuring, use the stylistic apparatus of advanced cinema, filtering and cleansing their historical material in the process.

So the disembodied, God-like narrator is replaced by a collage of voices, declaiming (often visibly) passages from *Transit*, the autobiographical novel by the German writer, Anna Seghers, written as it was happening in 1941. The camera, travelling shots lyrically retrace the refugee's flight along the motorways of contemporary France and ferret out surviving visual evidence of this desperate chapter in the country's history.

Sometimes there is nothing more than a sober plaque in a wall, commemorating the dead, or the weed-ridden site of an internment camp. But there is also the astonishing Oradour-sur-Glane — a village systematically destroyed and depopulated (bar one surviving woman) by the Nazis.

Engström and Theuring also weave into their film interviews with those who worked the escape route and came out living — writers like Alfred Kantorowicz and Vladimir Pozner; they have sharp, rueful memories.

Needless to say, this engrossing exercise in living history will not be found at your local ABC or the Odeon, Leicester Square; it appears at the ICA's valuable, if sparsely furnished, Cinema-que, where it plays at 6.30 pm until the end of January.

Fort Apache, the Bronx, on the other hand, will be found at the Odeon, Leicester Square. It features Paul Newman policing the Bronx Streets of New York as Patrolman Murphy. The star of *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* is now 56, and as a New York cop would surely be in line for early retirement. No matter: he drives around with a rookie colleague in an area rife with poverty, neglect and drug-crazed hoodlums, and every so often to deliver a baby, prevent a frantic gang from jumping off a tenement, and working up an affair with a pretty Puerto Rican nurse.

All this, declares the credits, is suggested by the experiences of two former policemen from the 41st Precinct, as written by Heywood Gould and directed by Daniel Petrie, the experiences only seem suggestive of other and better crime films.

Geoff Brown

Ballet

Nureyev makes it work

Hommage à Diaghilev

Châtelet, Paris

Here, for once, in contrast to all those dutiful celebrations of centenaries and other anniversaries, is a tribute to one of the great names of our artistic heritage, put on simply because he is there. And what theatre has more right to commemorate Diaghilev than the Châtelet, where his company gave its first season in 1909 and, in ensuing years, gave the premieres of two of the ballets in this season, *Petrushka* and *L'Après-midi d'un faune*?

The former is given, by the Ballet Théâtre Français and its guest stars, in a production by Serge Colovine which has a liveliness that has eluded all the many English stagings of the ballet. Partly that comes from being given on a stage that is the right size for it: neither too big for the middle scenes of domestic drama, nor too small for the fair where it begins and ends.

Incidentally, what a pleasure it is to see the settings taken from Benois's original designs, better than any of his innumerable revisions. The booths in the foreground of the fair are small, the building behind them huge.

Even more important is the understanding of the ballet's point and style which Golovine brings to the stage. Under Bronislava Nijinska, herself a member of the ballet's first cast, 70 years ago. We have seen *Petrushka* danced by companies larger and stronger than BTF, but not with more spirit or sharper focus. Besides the animation they bring to the ensembles, BTF can field a respectable trio from the leading parts, who are dancing the Saturday matinee during the Paris season: Gorki's Moor is particularly good.

It has to be admitted, however, that much more excitement comes from the assembly of guests who are playing the other performances. Rudolf Nureyev's performance of *Petrushka* is well-contrasted by the bulk and bluster of Rudy Bryans as the Moor, and Dominique Khaloufi brings a keenly ironic humour to the rapid flirtatiousness of the ballerina doll. Unfortunately, Khaloufi's sophisticated manner is less well-suited to the other Folies ballet being given.

Nureyev dances both those ballets and also *Faune* in which I saw BTF's François



L'Après-midi d'un faune: Nureyev and nymph

Dubuc as the chief nymph: I wish it could have been backed by equal success in the musical side of the programme, but the playing of the Orchestra Colonne under Charles Vanderzand is at best adequate, and in the remaining ballet, *Les Biches*, very ragged. In spite of that, *Biches* is perhaps the most impressive of BTF's contributions to the season.

It is being given only at the Saturday matinees, when it takes the place of *Spectre et Faune*. Rudy Bryans, with his impressive musculature and sharp articulation, might have been born to play the leading man; his determined but inscrutable pursuit of the ambiguous garçonne is abetted by Khaloufi's beautiful playing of that role.

Hacène Bahri and Patrick Armand, as the other two men, keep up with Bryans in their tough, staccato opening dance, and Irngush delicately in the attentions of the infatuated women. François Dubuc, by rights, to look far too young as the hostess, but she dances her rag mazurka so well, and puts on such an air of sophistication, that she carries it off.

The season continues until January 31. A worthy (and in this company's repertoire, con-

tinuing) tribute to Diaghilev. I wish it could have been backed by equal success in the musical side of the programme, but the playing of the Orchestra Colonne under Charles Vanderzand is at best adequate, and in the remaining ballet, *Les Biches*, very ragged. In spite of that, *Biches* is perhaps the most impressive of BTF's contributions to the season.

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John Percival

London debuts

Classics of the repertoire for oboe, bassoon and piano do not readily spring to mind, yet the City of London Trio was able to put together a well-varied programme. A Trio by Michael Head proved to be rather Frenchified and as such suffered in comparison with the delightful Poulenc Trio at the other end of the evening.

The mastery of Saint-Saëns's Bassoon Sonata might appear casual but in fact is absolutely focussed, and although this music's urbanity may seem at odds with the bassoon's character, it received a smooth performance from Frances Eustace and Richard Graves.

Mr Graves played Prokofiev's Piano Sonata No.3 fluently and sympathetically, though the phrases were always delineated with sufficient clarity. He had an imperfect understanding, of

Bartók's Improvisations Op. 20, which suffered from obvious exaggerations, yet he excellently partnered Gillian Carter in Hindemith's Oboe Sonata, which had a very spry performance.

So too did Gordon Jacob's Three Pieces for oboe and bassoon, spiced with bits of counterpoint. Another modern piece was Michael Finnissy's *Kerouac*, commissioned by the City of London Trio. An initially confusing score, this had much dense, seemingly random, figuration by all three instruments relieved by slow spare lines for the wind players.

Another good programme was offered by Morton Estrin, and its enterprise was matched by the confidence and decisiveness of his playing. James Cohn's Sonata No.4 lacked original ideas but was written in such a way as to display the performer's extensive technique, large range, and wide dynamic range. The darkly agitated Variations of Meyer Kupferman were far more interesting, and well-suited by the lean sound of the Baldwin piano. The finale, the familiar Wignore Hall Steinway.

The account of Scriabin's Etudes Op. 8 was more flattering to both the 12 pieces and to Mr Estrin than his recording, available here several years ago. They are relentlessly demanding, but he did justice to the fugitive lyricism which rides this music's groundswell of sombre violence; the fullest, most detailed textures taken at hair-raising speeds were comfortably within his powers and were carried off without loss of tone, clarity

or incidental nuance. Chopin's *Andante* mazurka showed that Mr Estrin could draw a softer-edged tone from the Baldwin, and the following Grande Polonaise, despite a brief memory lapse, more than confirmed his virtuosity.

In comparison, Nina Beilina was not fortunate in her choice of programme — a dull late Shostakovich sonata (Op.134) and duller early Britten suite (Op.6) — and it was as well that he remained in pieces were by Bach and Mozart. The latter's Sonata K.526 was beautifully played, the violinist's tone being pure yet always expressive and individual in quality.

It was a pleasure, also, to hear Lenar Brown at the piano again. His playing in the Mozart was exquisite. With Bach's D minor Partita, as with the Shostakovich, one had the impression of a violin technique equal to all demands. She passed from one ascending series of mountain peaks, each dance figure being finely characterized, the intonation secure in the multi-steps, the phrasing exact yet free as the flight of a bird.

Curtis Watson put together a mainly Russian and English programme, and had good diction in both languages, and in German. A group of familiar Schubert lieder displayed his large, firm baritone voice. The phrases were decisively shaped, the tone shaded with sensitivity. He produced a lovely sound, too, in Rachmaninov's "The Dream" and "Lilacs", excellently projecting their sultry moods, particularly the latter's quiet rapture.

Max Harrison

Medea

Theatro Technis

At least one of the many indistinguishable listings magazines in London called the *Medea* of Euripides a masterpiece. There is a slight accuracy in that, since the director of north London's temple to Greek theatre has tried to expand the tragedy to relate it to the kind of poetry recital that is Liverpool's gift to the nation.

Supported with a little music and a few simple light changes, it shows the partners in the twin roles of poets and performers, whose first rule is to maintain friendly contact with the customers. From anything approaching high culture, they retreat as nervously as one of their own literary hostesses detecting an evil smell in the guests' cloakroom. Mr Patten has a poem called "Celestial Music" which bumps down to earth with the sound of a girl singing in the bath. Likewise they are both on the guard at seeming too expert on stage; and if they do happen to make a strong gesture, or a declamatory utterance, they are quick to stamp on it and come down to our level as two ordinary chaps holding books.

After all this time, they know what they are doing; this is a genuinely popular entertainment, and the one thing you cannot accuse it of is philistinism.

It may lure you inside with a mock-television interview treating poetry as a form of drug addiction ("I saw some older boys do it," and it

Theatre

tragedy. It can, but not by mistaking temporary politics for fundamental truth: that would be farce.

Ned Chaillet

Behind the Lines

Tricycle

This programme reunites the old Mersey team of Roger McGough and Brian Patten in the kind of poetry recital that is Liverpool's gift to the nation.

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It may lure you inside with a mock-television interview treating poetry as a form of drug addiction ("I saw some older boys do it," and it

looked like harmless fun"), but by the end you come out having enjoyed some very good poems.

The programme is structured around recurring routines that bring Patten and McGough together in haunted unison and question-and-answer exchanges (depending on too much cataloguing), which supply enough foundation for them to do extended solo spots of their own material, plus an interlude anthology from Holub, Benjamin, Verity, Bargate, Adrian Mitchell and other admired colleagues.

Patten, with his forbidding romantic looks and sinister gentleness, is the more intense of the pair; and when the work takes over, as in his fine piece on Stevie Smith and the fable of the music-loving sparrows, his eyes close and it is up to the listener to follow him or be left behind. McGough is a much more the entertainer, a leprechaun with words, no less than in appearance, breaking up atmosphere with mangled nursery rhymes, riddles, poems for the audience to complete for themselves, and quips like the one about the girl who caught a strange disease notwithstanding. Always obedient to their public, each turns in a Merseyside broadside on the Royal Wedding; but there are better items on offer than that — McGough's Cup Final tribute to Houseman, "Is My Team Playing?" to name but one.

Irving Wardle

● Mai Zetterling is to direct a new production for Hand-Made Films. The film, as yet untitled, centres on women in prison.

Television

Those wishing for confirmation that the British are a nation of eccentrics could find no better occasion than the annual veteran-car run from London to Brighton, that annual celebration of the supremacy of mind over mechanics.

Brighton or Bust was the subject of Harry Weisbloom's delightfully observed Forty Minutes documentary on BBC2 last night. It appears that the word "bust" need not necessarily apply solely to cars but to bank accounts, for keeping these cars on the road — to qualify they have to originate not later than December 31, 1904 — requires not only hours of

work but loads of money. The costs had gone "berserk", said Johnny Thomas, a veteran of the run, who gave thanks for an understanding bank manager who helped him only when it was absolutely necessary. He explained that the wreck he was working on would be worth more than £25,000 when he had finished.

Forty Minutes concentrated on the 1981 run where Mr Thomas and his son Christopher were driving strikes and Mrs Thomas, inexplicably known as "Binks", was driving a Darracq Flying 15. "It goes like a dingbat", she reported. Her husband obviously has a lot of faith in her good

humour. "He puts me in a car and says 'Get on and drive it'."

It is by no means a male-only sport and appears to be infectious in families. The sisters Amanda and Deborah Bennett, who finished the race in their Panhard, said they had taken over on the death of their father — that the family calendar — Christmas, birthdays and London to Brighton — could be complete.

A wife told without resentment how she was jettisoned when hills were rather steep and, in one extremity, had been left behind altogether to make her own way. It seems that anything goes to make

things go and enthusiasm here knows no bounds.

Mr Thomas said he would be driving in the Peking to Paris run this year, which celebrates the race of 75 years ago. He will be taking the Darracq but not Binks. Good humour cannot be limited.

Documentary of a more sombre kind has been the business of 83-year-old Joris Ivens, who appeared earlier on BBC 2 talking about his work, his politics, and showing some of his films to a group of people from the Kentish mining community of Betteshanger. The excerpts we glimpsed seemed compelling. Mr Ivens, a Dutchman, is something of a

cinematic Zola and has had occasional trouble getting some of his films shown. "Too much reality," said a French censorship board about one of them in 1934, and this was the title of the programme.

He found much in common with the mining group and they with him, but the encounter, fascinating to watch, was somehow not entirely understandable.

Mr Ivens will be showing and talking about excerpts from the film he made in China in 1973 with his associate Marceline Loidan, on BBC 2 on Sunday afternoon.

Dennis Hackett

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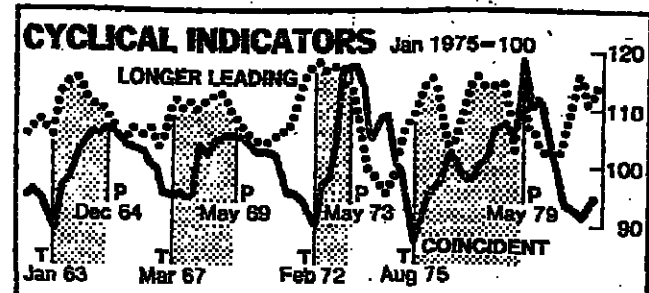
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 11. Dealings End Today, § Contango Day, Jan 25. Settlement Day, Feb 1.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

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BUSINESS NEWS

Doubts on recovery



The recession touched bottom last April, according to the latest set of indicators which track the course of the business cycle. The provisional upturn in the longer leading index in November and December — which signals turning-points about a year ahead — interrupted a sharp drop which suggested hesitation in economic recovery this year.

De Lorean pessimism

Mr John De Lorean, chairman of the De Lorean car company, was having discussions with Mr James Prior, Secretary for Northern Ireland, last night about the firm's future. Union sources feared 500 to 1,000 redundancies among the 2,600 employees in West Belfast as a result of De Lorean's failure to secure at least £36m from the Government to overcome a trading slump in the United States.

800,000 jobs lost

Small businesses lost 800,000 jobs in 1981, the Forum of Private Business claimed yesterday, basing its estimate on the fact that 12 per cent of its 8,000 members laid off an average three employees because of higher interest rates. It said far fewer jobs were created.

If higher interest rates continue this year, 22 per cent of the small firms would be forced to sell all or part of the business, the Forum added.

Tootal hit
Tootal, the shirts and textiles group, is to close its dress fabrics printing plant at Manchester, with the loss of 600 jobs, partly because of the growth in imports. Marketing operations at Manchester, Luton and London will also end.

Cincinnati Milacron, the American machine-tool manufacturer, is making 427 of its 2,200 employees redundant at Birmingham, Biggleswade, and Tamworth, with the branch official blaming Japanese competition.

● Discount houses will show surprising profit strength. Page 14
● Be wary of tin shares. Page 14
● The SDP economic policy is taking shape. Page 15

ACC in court

The future of Mr Robert Holmes & Court's £36m takeover bid for Associated Communications will depend on a High Court hearing today. Mr Gerald Ronson's Heron Corporation, which says it proposes to bid £42.5m for the company, will argue that the Independent Broadcasting Authority would be in breach of its duty if it allowed the transfer of ACC shares to Mr Holmes & Court. Its approval is needed for any ACC share transactions because of its 51 per cent ownership of Central Independent Television.

If the move fails, Mr Holmes & Court is now in a position to clinch a takeover. He was released from any Takeover Panel rules today, which means he can now buy the remaining voting shares promised to him.

Laker sale

Bankers in the Midlands loan syndicate which lent Laker Airways \$131m to buy three A-300 airbuses could get their money back within six months. The three planes will be for sale soon amid hopes that all the money will be recovered. Full details of the complicated Laker rescue package are likely to emerge in a few weeks.

Market Summary

Miners cheer shares

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 559.1 up 13.3
FT 100 63.93 up 0.28
FT All-share 319.39 up 4.81
Bargains 20,134

The miners' decision to accept the National Coal Board's pay offer of 9.9 per cent also received the "thumbs up" from the market yesterday with a strong after hours boost.

At least £1,500m was added to the value of shares as equities again surged ahead with strong two way business, with the FT index closing at its high for the day 13.3 up at 559.1.

Only Ultramar failed to share in the celebrations losing 12p to 433p, amid rumours of a possible rights issue, later denied by the company. The selling was in fact a result of a bearish circular from brokers Scott & Gill Hancock who have become disenchanted with the group's growth potential.

Gills recovered from a hesitant start to close with rises of up to £1 in longs and £3 in shorts as further evidence appeared of an easing in worldwide interest rates.

After this week's surge in buying, the market is expecting another round of government financing later today.

The increased turnover ahead of the new account on Monday also allowed a few big sellers to unload stock.

A line of 400,000 Distillers shares were offloaded with the price shedding 1p to 163p. There were also 200,000 Plessey on offer at 360p which failed to affect the closing price of 365p, unchanged.

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.8810 down 35 points
Index 91.4 unchanged
DM 4.3250
Fr.F 11.0050
Yen 425.20
Dollar Index 108.9 down 0.2
DM 2.2965 down 92 points
Gold \$377.75 up \$4.75

COMMODITIES

● Economic and mining analysts are forecasting that prices of base metals should be much higher by the end of the year and that they will climb faster in the first half of 1983. London brokers Bache Halsey Stuart point to forecasts that there will be a copper supply deficit in each of the years 1982 to 1985 leading to a sustained rise in prices.
● A group of speculators has alleged in New York Federal district court that two United States commodity futures exchanges and several big metal trading companies manipulated silver and gold prices in a conspiracy leading to the price crashes of 1980.

TODAY

Retail sales
Haynes Publishing — half year
Sterling Trust — finale

OTHER EXCHANGES

Tokyo: The Nikkei Dow Jones index rose 20.28 to 7,737.51.
Hongkong: The Hang Seng index fell 16.62 points to 1,380.46.

MONEY MARKETS

3 mth INTEREST RATES
16 per cent
15
14
13
12
DEC 1981
JAN 1982

● Interest rates continue to fall. The Bank gave 556m help in the face of a £500m shortage, cutting its 3 mth rate to 14 per cent from 14 1/4 per cent.

Domestic rates:
Base rates 14%
3-month interbank 14%-14 1/4%

Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 14%-14 1/4%
3 month DM 10%-10 1/4%
3 month Fr F 15%-15 1/4%

Securities dealers to face tighter controls

By Lorna Bourke

Tough new measures to control the activities of licensed dealers in securities were published yesterday by the Department of Trade in a comprehensive document which could easily become law within a few months.

The proposals give clients who use the investment services of a licensed dealer much greater protection against insolvency and fraud, and have been drawn up after the collapse of three licensed dealers last year.

The two main proposals are that clients' money should be kept in a separate trust account with a bank, and that professional indemnity and fidelity insurance would become a prerequisite of a licence being granted.

Mr Robin Hodgson, chairman of the newly named National Association of Security Dealers and Investment Managers, said: "We are glad to see something being done at last and the association broadly welcomes the new proposals."

The proposals broadly follow the association's recommendations to the Department of Trade and it seems likely that they will be adopted with only minor amendments and could come into force by May or June of this year.

New applicants for licences will then have to give more detailed information about themselves and the way in which they intend to run their business.

Six monthly returns, certified by an independent accountant, will have to be filed with the Department of Trade and the penalty for not complying with this requirement will be instant loss of licence with no appeal.

"The new rules are sufficient tough for some licensed dealers out of the total of 350, to consider turning in their licences, rather than comply. Some in the City feel that the biggest deficiency of the regulations is that they cover only a small proportion of investment advisers."

"Our view is that there has got to be a comprehensive system," said Mr Hodgson. "The fundamental problem is that the new proposals do not cover the vast majority of small investment advisers and we would like to see the regulations made comprehensive."

With very little amendment, the new regulations could be extended to cover the whole range of investment advisers and effectively form the basis of a new Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act. The present one is widely accepted as being totally inadequate and out of date.

Professor Laurence Gower, of the Department of Trade, commissioned by the Government to review the current PFI Act, will be producing a preliminary discussion document next Tuesday. This is expected to come down heavily in favour of self-regulation by the various City institutions.

This solution would not, however, deal with the thousands of small investment advisers who are now subject to almost no legislative constraints.

The Government has made it plain that it is not prepared to produce a new Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act in the life of this Parliament, but the publication of both the new Licensed Dealers regulations and Professor Gower's discussion document will fuel City pressure for immediate legislation.

Institutions invest more at home

By David Blake

Britain's financial institutions put more money into British companies and less overseas in the third quarter of last year. The drop in overseas investment was the first significant one since the ending of exchange controls in 1979. It suggests that the institutions feel they have adjusted the proportion of their assets held abroad to nearer their target figure.

New estimates published by the Central Statistical Office yesterday also show that in the third quarter of 1981 less money went into house and house purchase loans and more was kept as liquid assets.

The figures show that, in the three months to the end of September, financial institutions had a total inflow of funds of £6,100m down from £7,000m in the second quarter. There was a £500m drop in building societies deposits

to £1,600m. A drop is usual in the third quarter.

Insurance and pension funds received £3,300m up from £3,100m in the second quarter.

There was a £600m drop in the amount which the institutions spend on buying gilts, down to £1,100m from £1,700m. Investment overseas was down to £400m from £800m in the second quarter.

This implies that overseas investment in stocks and shares was slightly higher than estimated when balance of payments figures were published last month.

The reason for the big drop in gilts buying is that building societies, who use gilts as one of their main assets, had less money to spend. But it was the pension funds and insurance companies who dominated the buying of British shares, which went up from £500m to £700m.

Germany cuts key loan rate

From Peter Norman, Brussels, Jan 21

The West German and Dutch central banks today decided to clip a half percentage point off their key interest rate. Market rate in London also fell for the fourth successive day.

The West German Federal Bank Council, which met in Hamburg today, announced a reduction from 10.5 per cent to 10 per cent in the special Lombard rate at which it lends funds to commercial banks against collateral.

Shortly afterwards in Amsterdam the Dutch National Bank said it would cut bank rate by 0.5 per cent to 8.5 per cent and Lombard rate 9.5 per cent from 10 per cent.

Although the Dutch move was prompted partly by the German reduction, today's interest rate cuts do not appear to have been coordinated in advance.

The German rate cut was probably inspired by political considerations in Bonn. Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, who is looking at ways to boost employment, was host on Tuesday night to a meeting of employers, trade unionists and Federal Bank officials including Herr Karl Otto Poehl, the president of the central bank. Herr Schmidt has often said that lower interest rates are the best way of creating new jobs.

A brief explanation of today's decision, the Federal Bank said that the rate reduction was intended to keep the Lombard rate in line with lower money market interest rates.

However, some bankers believe that these lower rates were engineered by recent big purchases of government stock by the Federal Bank which have pushed liquidity into the banking system.

In London, money market rates continued to ease, raising speculation that a small cut in bank base rates may be possible soon. (John Whitmore writes). Most bankers continue to take a cautious line, however, and feel that market rates need to fall further over the next few days to make an early cut in lending rates a serious possibility.

Business Editor P15

Burton drops £275,000 home plan for chief

By Gareth David

For the second time in a week big institutional shareholders have prevented a company providing substantial perks for present or former employees.

In the wake of the Jack Gill affair at ACC, the Burton Group will not after all be providing a £275,000 home for Mr Ralph Halpern, its 101,000 year chairman following a meeting yesterday between institutional shareholders and Mr Halpern.

A special resolution due to be considered at next Tuesday's annual meeting has been withdrawn after opposition from a three man committee appointed by the National Association of Pension Funds, whose members hold a total of 43 per cent of the Burton shares.

It means that Mr Halpern will no longer be able to buy a half interest in the Hampstead property for which he was to have paid £140,000 together with a further £7,500 for an option to buy



Mr Halpern

the company's interest for a fixed £140,000 at any time over the next five years. It will now be used by the group for accommodation and conferences.

Burton had sought the opinion of shareholders 10 days ago since a deal of this type requires shareholders' approval under the Companies Act.

Battle for whisky leadership Haig sheds that vague image

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

The leadership battle in the whisky market that has seen a sales plunge of up to 14 per cent this past year entered a new round yesterday. Haig, part of Distillers Company, put on a new packaging face which it hopes will turn the tide that started running against this brand a dozen or so years ago.

Haig, which has been in a dumpy, amber-coloured bottle throughout its 60 years' life, was market leader in standard brand whiskies back in the sixties. But it was first overtaken by Teacher's and then by the standard brand of Arthur Bell & Sons. Bell's, now with around 25 per cent market share, out-paced Teacher's as market leader when it scooped up sales after Distillers took Johnnie Walker Red Label off the British market following a brush with the European Commission on harmonized pricing.

Teacher's is thought now to have just shed 20 per cent market share, with Haig at only 10 per cent. Even that share was under threat from brands like Highland Distilleries' Famous Grouse which is still increasing its market share. There is also the problem that in a recession spending tends in food and drink to polarise to the ends of the price spectrum. Distillers' cheaper brand, Claymore, which sells mainly through the supermarkets, is selling almost as much in volume as Haig. Sales of de luxe blends, including Distillers' Johnnie Walker Black Label and Dimple Haig, have also been



showing relative strength during the whisky sales decline. John Haig and Company was sufficiently worried that it mounted a £40,000 research programme to find out what had gone wrong. Everything pointed to that amber bottle which obscured the whisky's colour and was regarded as awkward and clumsy, according to Mr George Joseph, Haig's senior home trade director.

So the whisky itself, which the research showed had a high consumer awareness as a quality product, was not changed. Instead Haig now goes into the sort of clear glass, round-shouldered bottle used by most whisky producers for their standard and cheaper brands.



Lord Matthews after yesterday's board meeting

Trafalgar plan hinges on rivals' approval

Trafalgar House proposal to float off its Express Newspapers as part of a separate publishing company, has yet to get the approval of its major rival, Associated Newspapers.

Lord Rothermere's Associated chain, which includes the Daily Mail, is involved because it jointly owns the London Standard with the Daily Express and is thought to be arguing that a transfer of Trafalgar's stake to the new group Fleet Holdings, breaks the original joint agreement drawn up more than a year ago when the Evening News was closed.

Lord Matthews said yesterday, after Trafalgar shareholders had approved the de-merger plans, that informal talks with Associated Newspapers had left him with the impression that they were not happy about the deal.

He says formal talks will start soon, but denied reports that the Evening Standard was crucial to the de-merger because it bears a high proportion of Express Newspapers' overheads.

He said: "Even if they don't agree we go ahead. We can live without the Evening Standard being in-cluded. I suspect that Associated will try to get as much out of this as they can."

Lord Matthews said that the Inland Revenue agreed to the de-merger about 10 days ago. The prospectus, due in a few weeks, is likely to show that the terms will be on new share in Fleet Holdings for every four shares held in Trafalgar House.

He says he expected to have a substantial stake, but less than 5 per cent, and will spend around one day a week working as the Fleet's chairman. Express Newspapers will announce the appointment of a new chief executive for Fleet in ten days. Lord Matthews declined to name him but said he will be from outside the Express Group and complete the six-man board of Fleet. It will include Mr Michael Murphy, managing director of Express Newspapers. That position was formerly held by Mr Jocelyn Stevens whose dismissal payment has now been agreed.

Lord Matthews who is also a director of Lord Grade's old company, Associated Communications Corporation, said: "It is not in the Jack Gill class. It is reasonable on both sides."

Pilkington loses battle with Inland Revenue

by Drew Johnston

Pilkington Brothers, the St Helens-based glass producers, yesterday became the third major British company in three months to lose a court battle with the Inland Revenue.

A 3 to 2 House of Lords decision axed a Pilkington scheme to set off acquired trading losses of £13m against profits. Last November ICI lost in its attempt to provide tax-free scholarships for the children of senior employees, and the following month Burnham Oil lost in its bid to claim £160m of capital gains tax losses through use of an elaborate tax avoidance scheme.

Yesterday's decision threw the tax world into confusion since it highlighted the differing interpretations of tax avoidance schemes among the judges of the Chancery Division and the Lords.

Shortly before Christmas, a High Court judge upheld a tax avoidance scheme in the case of Furniss v Dawson, but the legal battlefield has now moved on to question the legality of all arrangements to avoid or reduce tax.

A leading tax practitioner, Mr Philip Hardman, of accountants Thornton Baker, said the present situation could not be allowed to continue. "It is high time that lawyers and accountants sat down with the Inland Revenue to work out where the application of the Ramsay decision ends," he said.

Pilkington bought £13m of capital allowances from Manchester Liners for £5.9m in order to save tax of £6.76m.

GM may close plants as talks fail

General Motors Corporation may begin closing down plants in beleaguered United States communities in the following the collapse of new contract talks with the United Auto Workers Union.

Company officials yesterday warned of further layoffs and plant closures if negotiations break down completely.

Both General Motors and Ford Motor Company have begun unprecedented bargaining talks to negotiate wage and benefit concessions that will lower labour costs substantially.

Mr Douglas Fraser, president of the UAW, announced yesterday that talks with General Motors' management had been broken off after a lengthy session ended in stalemate.

A union official said negotiators had been unable to resolve differences over the size of the labour savings sought by General Motors and the growing use by the company of car parts manufactured outside the United States.

Plants thought to be most at risk are those which manufacture parts and components which General Motors can obtain more cheaply and readily from overseas suppliers.

The UAW, which agreed to new talks in an effort to save threatened jobs, has been pressing the company for limitation on the use of outside suppliers.

Earlier, it appeared that the UAW and GM were very close to signing a new contract which would allow GM to lower car prices by as much as \$1,200 a unit because of wage concessions from the union.

General Motors had asked for \$5 an hour reduction in non-wage compensation from UAW members who average \$20.83 an hour in wage and fringe benefits.

Union negotiators agreed to consider the reductions only if the savings were passed on to consumers in the form of lower car prices. The size of the reduction, however, could not be agreed upon.

Mr Fraser was yesterday disappointed that talks had been broken off, adding there was a slim possibility for resumption after he met with the union's executive board.

Both the UAW and GM had set a January 23 deadline for a tentative contract agreement to be presented to the 300-member GM council. Ford Motor Company has a similar agreement with the union which said it plans soon to resume talks with Ford.

The apparent collapse of the talks comes at a particularly troubled time for American labour unions which have experienced mounting layoffs and plant closures.

Only recently two other large American unions — the Teamsters' Union and the United Wood and Commercial Workers International — agreed to wage freezes for the life of multi-year contracts to protect union jobs in their industries.

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The Over-the-Counter Market

1981/82	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Grp	Yld	P/E	Traded
121	100	98	ABI Hlds 10% CULS	61	+1	10.0	8.3	—	—
75	62	60	Airsprung Group	129	—	4.7	6.8	11.0	15.2
51	32	30	Armitage & Rhodes	46	—	4.3	9.3	3.8	8.7
201	187	185	Bardon Hill	201	—	9.7	4.8	9.8	11.9
104	82	80	Deborah Services	82	—	6.0	7.3	4.1	7.7
129	97	95	Frank Horsell	129	+1	6.4	5.0	11.6	23.9
74	39	37	Frederick Parker	74	+1	1.7	2.3	32.2	—
78	46	44	George Blair	48	—	—	—	—	—
102	93	91	IPC	94	—	7.3	7.8	6.8	10.2
105	100	98	Isis Conv Pref	105	—	15.7	15.0	—	—
113	95	93	Jackson Group	96	—	7.0	7.3	3.0	6.8
130	108	106	James Burrough	114	—	8.7	7.6	8.3	10.5
334	250	248	Robert Jenkins	252	+2	31.3	12.4	3.5	8.9
59	51	49	Scruttons "A"	55	—	5.3	9.6	8.5	—
222	167	165	Torday & Carlisle	167	—	10.7	6.4	5.4	—
15	10	9	Twinkltd Ltd	13	—	—	—	—	—
80	66	64	Twinkltd Ltd	75	+1	15.0	20.0	—	—
44	29	27	Unilock Holdings	29	—	3.0	10.3	5.2	8.8
103	76	74	Walter Alexander	76	—	6.4	8.5	4.9	8.7
263	212	210	W. S. Yeates	216	—	13.1	6.1	4.1	8.3

Prices now available on Prestel page 48146

BUSINESS NEWS/COMPANIES AND MARKET REPORTS

DISCOUNT HOUSES

Small companies under strain but still in favour

News of higher losses from Smith St Aubyn yesterday did not put the discount house sector as a whole out of favour for one very good reason. There are high hopes of higher dividends from some of the stronger houses, and the reporting season starts on Monday.

The £20m gilt market losses by Smith St Aubyn, recently the fastest growing discount house, has also focused attention on the strains that these small companies are suffering. They are vastly undercapitalised compared with the volume of business they are handling. The Bank of England uses the market as the vehicle through which it controls liquidity in the money markets.

Their method of functioning is basically to sell long term, while borrowing very short term. This is why they are so vulnerable to changes in interest rates, and why life is so difficult under government control. Money markets have to be allowed to run books that are on average 30 times their capital bases. But with the money markets handling tens of billions of pounds, these bases look very small. Capital losses have to be estimated. They are not published officially. A glance at some of the better guesses will explain why there are strong advocates of mergers among some of the smaller houses. Need to be able to handle individual houses themselves are mostly highly unsympathetic to arguments in favour of mergers.



Discount broker yesterday: higher dividends expected.

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI

Why a German bid is so tempting

How much would it cost to buy a good German bank? Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation is thought to be running its calculations over the books after its failure to capture the Royal Bank of Scotland as the base of a major European division.

Investors are staying away from the German banks. The market generally should benefit from lower German interest rates, and an expected rise in the Deutsche mark this year. German banks are depressed by the weight of the unpaid loans to Poland, and — good news for Hongkong and Shanghai — their share prices are languishing.

Buying cost for a major bank in Germany would be very much in line with the price HSBC was prepared to pay for the Royal Bank.

The jewel in the German banking scene — as HSBC well knows, having a outlet in Frankfurt — is the Deutsche Bank. Cost of this bank would be very expensive, around £1,400m at today's market price. But it is very well respected, is not over-extended on Polish loans, and did not lose money in the bond markets when interest rates rose.

Next two in line look less healthy, and are much smaller. Dresdner Bank would cost around £530m. It has lost money not only in the bond market, but also on gold.

Most German banks, particularly the majors, could probably be picked up cheaply compared to their true net asset value. They are not obliged to declare any industrial stakes unless they have more than 25 per cent of the equity, and rarely do so.

BRITISH TELECOM

Branching out into electronic mail

British Telecom is to fund a new company called BT Gold which will market electronic mail for the corporation, but the ownership of the company will be in the hands of two independent chartered accountants.

Mr Jonathan Hoffman and Mr Howard Kenton both own 50 per cent of this new company, whose entire income becomes that of British Telecom. The new company will in turn be paid a fee by British Telecom to cover its management and operational costs.

According to British Telecom, the new company, which is not a subsidiary, is to provide a small, specialist group of people who are able to respond quickly to take advantage of this new market. The company will be based in London and is expected to be operational by the spring.

Mr Hoffman and Mr Kenton have been chosen, according to British Telecom, because they have particular experience in running such an operation.

The electronic mail service is the first value added service from British Telecom since the passage of the British Telecommunications Act, which allows the corporation to form partnerships and subsidiaries for specific operations.

The electronic mail service of BT Gold is based on that of the American company Dialcom.

The new company will also be managed by a new division of British Telecom, called BT Enterprises, which was set up last year to control the subsidiary activities of the corporation.

Dialcom has also been in discussions with the Cable & Wireless subsidiary, Incotel, which is considering adapting the system of the American company to run on its own hardware. If an agreement is reached, C&W will also be able to offer a comparable service in the United Kingdom in competition with British Telecom.

British Telecom announced the formation of its enterprise division in June. At the time the corporation's chairman, Sir George Jefferson, denied that British Telecom Enterprises was a cosmetic measure to allow finance to be raised through subsidiaries.

TIN SHARES

Dull market

Strong hearts tempted by the vamping of the tin price to take a chance on tin shares must have been disappointed. While tin has soared since July by almost £2,000 a tonne, very few tin shares have followed. The refusal by tin consumers at this week's meeting to accept another increase in the intervention price has not helped. Geevor, the only producing Cornish tin mine in which there is still a significant public interest, has put on 28p since the beginning of July to 135p. But since only 48 per cent of the equity is freely traded the market is thin. Such high cost mines are also very sensitive to the tin price and could fall back just as quickly when the tin market bubble bursts.

Malaysia Mining might be thought a prime beneficiary of a tin market operation widely believed to be carried out by tin producers, but it is trading below last year's high and is an even thinner market.

INTERNATIONAL



FRANCE

Shareholders in the French Bank Credit Commercial de France (CCS) and Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas (Paribas) and of the industrial group of the Communauté d'Electricité (CGE) emerge as the main beneficiaries of the French government's new compensation proposals submitted to the National Assembly in its revised Nationalization Bill.

France improved its energy self-sufficiency last year with the country providing 35 per cent of its own energy needs compared to 29 per cent in 1980. The government has set target of 50 per cent self-sufficiency by 1990.

Prouvost SA, France's biggest woollens group, has arranged a long-term loan of Fr 100m (£91m) from the government towards the Fr 200m it invested in 1981. The group intends to invest another Fr 400m between now and the end of 1983.

JAPAN

Nippon Electric says it plans to increase sales of industrial robots to about 2,000 units a year by 1985, which would be ten times current annual sales.

Zenko Suzuki, Japan's prime minister, has accepted a report from the advisory economic council revising Japan's estimated average nominal economic growth in the fiscal 1979-85 period down to 9.5 per cent from 11.2 per cent.

UNITED STATES

A new report says about 25 per cent of Florida's citrus crop and half of south Florida's winter vegetable crop were lost during last week's freeze.

AUSTRALIA

Imports of fully assembled cars by Australia fell to 46,345 units in the six months to December 1981, down from 60,325 in the preceding half year.

INDIA

Mr Kenneth Baker, the British minister of state for industries, said in New Delhi that he had discussed with the Indian government ways and means of increasing and diversifying trade between India and Britain and establishing joint ventures in third countries.

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION to the holders of

SUNDSTRAND FINANCE INTERNATIONAL N.V.

9 3/4 % Guaranteed Sinking Fund Notes Due 1983

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to the Fiscal Agency Agreement dated as of February 15, 1976, there has been selected for redemption on February 15, 1982 (payable on or after February 16, 1982), through operation of the Sinking Fund, \$1,999,000 principal amount of SUNDSTRAND FINANCE INTERNATIONAL N.V. 9 3/4 % Guaranteed Sinking Fund Notes Due 1983. The following are the serial numbers of the Sinking Fund Notes which will be redeemed:

Definitive Sinking Fund Notes in the principal amount of \$1,000,

bearing the prefix DM to be redeemed in whole.

11	573	884	1456	1867	2701	3167	3339	3507	3743	3862	4165	4346	4605	4919	5262	5524	5806	9461	16783
13	574	985	1456	1867	2702	3168	3340	3508	3744	3863	4167	4347	4606	4920	5263	5525	5807	9462	16784
14	575	986	1457	1868	2703	3169	3341	3509	3745	3864	4172	4348	4610	4922	5264	5526	5807	9463	16790
15	576	987	1458	1869	2704	3170	3342	3510	3746	3865	4173	4349	4611	4923	5265	5527	5808	9464	16791
16	577	988	1459	1870	2705	3171	3343	3511	3747	3866	4174	4350	4612	4924	5266	5528	5809	9465	16792
17	578	989	1460	1871	2706	3172	3344	3512	3748	3867	4175	4351	4613	4925	5267	5529	5810	9466	16793
18	579	990	1461	1872	2707	3173	3345	3513	3749	3868	4176	4352	4614	4926	5268	5530	5811	9467	16794
19	580	991	1462	1873	2708	3174	3346	3514	3750	3869	4177	4353	4615	4927	5269	5531	5812	9468	16795
20	581	992	1463	1874	2709	3175	3347	3515	3751	3870	4178	4354	4616	4928	5270	5532	5813	9469	16796
21	582	993	1464	1875	2710	3176	3348	3516	3752	3871	4179	4355	4617	4929	5271	5533	5814	9470	16797
22	583	994	1465	1876	2711	3177	3349	3517	3753	3872	4180	4356	4618	4930	5272	5534	5815	9471	16798
23	584	995	1466	1877	2712	3178	3350	3518	3754	3873	4181	4357	4619	4931	5273	5535	5816	9472	16799
24	585	996	1467	1878	2713	3179	3351	3519	3755	3874	4182	4358	4620	4932	5274	5536	5817	9473	16800
25	586	997	1468	1879	2714	3180	3352	3520	3756	3875	4183	4359	4621	4933	5275	5537	5818	9474	16801
26	587	998	1469	1880	2715	3181	3353	3521	3757	3876	4184	4360	4622	4934	5276	5538	5819	9475	16802
27	588	999	1470	1881	2716	3182	3354	3522	3758	3877	4185	4361	4623	4935	5277	5539	5820	9476	16803
28	589	1000	1471	1882	2717	3183	3355	3523	3759	3878	4186	4362	4624	4936	5278	5540	5821	9477	16804
29	590	1001	1472	1883	2718	3184	3356	3524	3760	3879	4187	4363	4625	4937	5279	5541	5822	9478	16805
30	591	1002	1473	1884	2719	3185	3357	3525	3761	3880	4188	4364	4626	4938	5280	5542	5823	9479	16806
31	592	1003	1474	1885	2720	3186	3358	3526	3762	3881	4189	4365	4627	4939	5281	5543	5824	9480	16807
32	593	1004	1475	1886	2721	3187	3359	3527	3763	3882	4190	4366	4628	4940	5282	5544	5825	9481	16808
33	594	1005	1476	1887	2722	3188	3360	3528	3764	3883	4191	4367	4629	4941	5283	5545	5826	9482	16809
34	595	1006	1477	1888	2723	3189	3361	3529	3765	3884	4192	4368	4630	4942	5284	5546	5827	9483	16810
35	596	1007	1478	1889	2724	3190	3362	3530	3766	3885	4193	4369	4631	4943	5285	5547	5828	9484	16811
36	597	1008	1479	1890	2725	3191	3363	3531	3767	3886	4194	4370	4632	4944	5286	5548	5829	9485	16812
37	598	1009	1480	1891	2726	3192	3364	3532	3768	3887	4195	4371	4633	4945	5287	5549	5830	9486	16813
38	599	1010	1481	1892	2727	3193	3365	3533	3769	3888	4196	4372	4634	4946	5288	5550	5831	9487	16814
39	600	1011	1482	1893	2728	3194	3366	3534	3770	3889	4197	4373	4635	4947	5289	5551	5832	9488	16815
40	601	1012	1483	1894	2729	3195	3367	3535	3771	3890	4198	4374	4636	4948	5290	5552	5833	9489	16816
41	602	1013	1484	1895	2730	3196	3368	3536	3772	3891	4199	4375	4637	4949	5291	5553	5834	9490	16817
42	603	1014	1485	1896	2731	3197	3369	3537	3773	3892	4200	4376	4638	4950	5292	5554	5835	9491	16818
43	604	1015	1486	1897	2732	3198	3370	3538	3774	3893	4201	4377	4639	4951	5293	5555	5836	9492	16819
44	605	1016	1487	1898	2733	3199	3371	3539	3775	3894	4202	4378	4640	4952	5294	5556	5837	9493	16820
45	606	1017	1488	1899	2734	3200	3372	3540	3776	3895	4203	4379	4641	4953	5295	5557	5838	9494	16821
46	607	1018	1489	1900	2735	3201	3373	3541	3777	3896	4204	4380	4642	4954	5296	5558	5839	9495	16822
47	608	1019	1490	1901	2736	3202	3374	3542	3778	3897	4205	4381	4643	4955	5297	5559	5840	9496	16823
48	609	1020	1491	1902	2737	3203	3375	3543	3779	3898	4206	4382	4644	4956	5298	5560	5841	9497	16824
49	610	1021	1492	1903	2738	3204	3376	3544	3780	3899	4207	4383	4645	4957	5299	5561	5842	9498	16825
50	611	1022	1493	1904	2739	3205	3377	3545	3781	3900	4208	4384	4646	4958	5300	5562	5843	9499	16826
51	612	1023	1494	1905	2740	3206	3378	3546	3782	3901	4209	4385	4647	4959	5301	5563	5844	9500	16827
52	613	1024	1495	1906	2741	3207	3379	3547	3783	3902	4210	4386	4648	4960	5302	5564	5845	9501	16828
53	614	1025	1496	1907	2742	3208	3380	3548	3784	3903	4211	4387	4649	4961	5303	5565	5846	9502	16829
54	615	1026	1497	1908	2743	3209	3381	3549	3785	3904	4212	4388	4650	4962	5304	5566	5847	9503	16830
55	616	1027	1498	1909	2744	3210	3382	3550	3786	3905	4213	4389	4651	4963	5305	5567	5848	9504	16831
56	617	1028	1499	1910	2745	3211	3383	3551	3787	3906	4214	4390	4652	4964	5306	5568	5849	9505	16832
57	618	1029	1500	1911	2746	3212	3384	3552	3788	3907	4215	4391	4653	4965	5307	5569	5850	9506	16833
58	619	1030	1501	1912	2747	3213	3385	3553	3789	3908	4216	4392	4654	4966	5308	5570	5851	9507	16834
59	620	1031	1502	1913	2748	3214	3386	3554	3790	3909	4217	4393	4655	4967	5309	5571	5852	9508	16835
60	621	1032	1503	1914	2749	3215	3387	3555	3791	3910	4218	4394	4656	4968	5310	5572	5853	9509	16836
61	622	1033	1504	1915	2750	3216	3388	3556	3792	3911	4219	4395	4657	4969	5311	5573	5854	9510	16837
62	623	1034	1505	1916	2751	3217	3389	3557	3793	3912	4220	4396	4658	4970	5312	5574	5855	9511	16838
63	624	1035	1506	1917	2752	3218	3390	3558	3794	3913	4221	4397	4659	4971	5313	5575	5856	9512	16839
64	625	1036	1507	1918	2753	3219	3391	3559	3795	3914	4222	4398	4660	4972	5314	5576	5857	9513	16840
65	626	1037	1508	1919	2754	3220	3392	3560	3796	3915	4223	4399	4661	4973	5315	5577	5858	9514	16841
66	627	1038	1509	1920	2755	3221	3393	3561	3797	3916	4224	4400	4662	4974	5316	5578	5859	9515	16842
67	628	1039	1510	1921	2756	3222	3394	3562	3798	3917	4225	4401	4663	4975	5317	5579	5860	9516	16843
68	629	1040	1511	1922	2757	3223	3395	3563	3799	3918	4226	4402	4664	4976	5318	5580	5861	9517	16844
69	630	1041	1512	1923	2758	3224	3396	3564	3800	3919	4227	4403	4665	4977	5319	5581	5862	9518	16845
70	631	1042	1513	1924	2759	3225	3397	3565	3801	3920	4228	4404	4666	4978	5320	5582	5863	9519	16846
71	632	1043	1514	1925	2760	3226	3398	3566	3802	3921	4229	4405	4667	4979	5321	5583	5864	9520	16847
72	633	1044	1515	1926	2761	3227	3399	3567	3803	3922	4230	4406	4668	4980	5322	5584	5865	9521	16848
73	634	1045	1516	1927	2762	3228	3400	3568	3804	3923	4231	4407	4669	4981	5323	5585	5866	9522	16849
74	635	1046	1517	1928	2763	3229	3401	3569	3805	3924	4232	4408	4670	4982	5324	5586	5867	9523	16850
75	636	1047	1518	1929	2764	3230	3402	3570	3806	3925	4233	4409	4671	4983	5325	5587	5868	9524	16851
76	637	1048	1519	1930	2765	3231	3403	3571	3807	3926	4234	4410	4672	4984	5326	5588	5869	9525	16852
77	638	1049	1520	1931	2766	3232	3404	3572	3808	3927	4235	4411	4673	4985	5327	5589	5870	9526	16853
78	639	1050	1521	1932	2767	3233	3405	3573	3809	3928	4236	4412	4674	4986	5328	5590	5871	9527	16854

BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

PEOPLE

Electric chair anybody?

John Lyons, at once one of the most moderate and yet literally most powerful union leaders on Britain, is on the warpath.

Lyons is general secretary of the Electrical Power Engineers' Association, whose members man — and so far always have manned — the country's power stations.

He has sent a smoke-signal to Energy Secretary Nigel Lawson about the "deplorable" delay in filling the four vacancies on the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) chairman Glyn E. England, deputy Fred Rogers and other full-timers Gil Blackman and Dennis Lomer.



Power engineers' Lyons (left) and Energy Secretary Lawson

are young enough to continue if asked, but so far from Lawson, silence.

Lyons is asking whether Lawson and Mrs Thatcher are prepared to appoint to the CEGB only members "committed in advance" to support privatization, which, says Lyons, would be "disastrous" for energy supply.

● The president of Joseph A. Bank Clothiers Inc of Atlanta telephoned the telephone company and asked them to drop the "Inc". The next issue of the directory contained no mention of Joseph A. Bank Clothiers but did list a certain unknown company called "Drop Inc". When you contact a phone company, do not phone, write.

Lauda's grist to the Mills



David Mills and cocktail cabinet from the McLaren engine block Emerson Fittipaldi blew in the 1975 Dutch Grand Prix

Niki Lauda's return to Formula One motor racing in the South African Grand Prix at Kyalami tomorrow is good news both to Lauda fans and especially to David Mills.

Mills is the managing director of Grand Prix Sportscare, a mail order company in Corsham, Wiltshire, which specializes in souvenirs made from winning cars — among them cocktail cabinets made from engine blocks and ashtrays made from pistons.

"I know we can sell every Niki Lauda piston we can lay our hands on", Mills told *People*. "I only wish James Hunt and Jackie Stewart would make a comeback too."

No wine, buy gum

Bob Ramsdale, chief executive of the London confectioner Maynards Ltd, was surprised and tickled when I told him that a sweetshop in Holborn, London, would not sell Maynards wine gums because the shopkeeper is a devout Muslim who does not deal with alcohol.

Ramsdale was surprised because there is no wine in wine gums other than the derivative acetic acid common to many other sweets. He was tickled because Holborn is where Maynards' own shop is.

"The shopkeeper must be very strict," says Ramsdale. "Our reps tell me we have many customers called Patel, and we also employ a few."

The article may reassure strict Muslims: I hope it does not alert the EEC's nomenclature experts to call for wine gums to be renamed "acetic acid gums".

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr J. Alastair Smith-Maxwell has been appointed sales director of Blue Circle Cement. Mr Smith-Maxwell was formerly the company's customer relations director. Mr Kenneth Rose, distribution director of Blue Circle Cement, has taken on an expanded role as commercial director. Nigel Barry, national sales director will retire during 1982.

Mr Alan Squires has been appointed managing director of Associated Traxpans.

Mr Ralph Richards has been appointed a director of Information Transfer.

The Earl of Aylesford has been appointed a regional director of the Birmingham and West Midlands regional board of Lloyds Bank.

Frances Williams on the new party's economic policy debate

How the SDP's leaders are picking the professors' brains

Stephen Johnson



The search by the Social Democrats for a coherent set of economic policies they can truly call their own exhibits to the outsider two striking characteristics. The first is the extraordinary wealth of economic talent they have been able to call upon — which has, indeed, been flung at their feet. The second is the extreme amicability, most unusual where dons, at least, are concerned, with which the discussions are being conducted.

The SDP's Working Party on Economic Policy, one of several policy groups set up last autumn, has been able to take its pick of the universities. It boasts Britain's only Nobel Prize winner in economics, Professor James Meade of Cambridge, and includes other eminent and respected economists with a wide range of experience in and out of Government. Most notable are Professor Robin Matthews, Master of Clare College, Cambridge, who chairs the select Bank of England panel of academic consultants, Professor Marcus Miller of Warwick University, a former adviser to the Commons Select Committee on the Treasury, and Joan Mitchell, Professor at Nottingham University, an ex-member of the National Board for Prices and Incomes. She was a special adviser to Shirley Williams when Mrs Williams was Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

Roy Jenkins, the group's chairman and a past Labour Chancellor of the Exchequer, sums up the essence of SDP economic policy as a commitment to the mixed economy, including a thriving private sector; a belief in the efficacy of market mechanisms to allocate resources and in government intervention through influencing these mechanisms rather than replacing them with bureaucratic controls; and a pragmatic approach to managing the economy which would combine moderate economic expansion with firm fiscal and monetary controls. The group does not, however, consist simply of academics.

Its 14 members include three MPs, a former Treasury minister, an official of the National Union of Railwaymen and an ex-Tory student leader now working for an American Bank in the City.

It is, however, Professor Meade who has emerged as the towering intellectual force within the group. His notion that governments should aim to promote a steady expansion of money demand, offset by additional on pay restraint through new wage-fixing arrangements, permeates the thinking of other

members of the group even though they do not all subscribe to the fine detail of his thinking.

This basic theme is echoed in two recent statements on alternative economic policies warmly commended by the committee's vice-chairman, John Horam MP, who is the party's economic spokesman in Parliament.

Professors Sir Bryan Hopkin, Brian Reddaway and Marcus Miller (the first two of whom are Alliance sympathisers though not SDP members) argued last month that "we attach great importance to the development of a better system of pay determination which would make further progress to a satisfactory level of output compatible with the avoidance of accelerating inflation".

And, they say, the government should emphasize that "its expansionary policy on demand will have to be held back in later years if pay settlements and price increases are excessive".

The Clare Group of university economists which numbers at least three SDP members in its ranks including Sir Alec Cairncross, Master of St Peter's, Oxford, and a former Government advisor, makes the second stage of a two-stage £5 billion reflation package expressly conditional on moderate pay settlements (*Midland Bank Review, Autumn/Winter 1981*).

The Economic Policy group has had four meetings so far, one each on exchange rate policy and demand management (based on papers from Marcus Miller and Robin Matthews) and two on incomes policy which have been dominated by discussion

of two detailed schemes, the arbitration system proposed by Professor Meade and the inflation tax devised by Professor Layard.

Though a few optimists on the committee believe that the schemes can in some way be dovetailed this is not a view shared by the two proponents.

But both have by all accounts proved unusually ready to acknowledge the defects of their brainchild and to come forward with amendments and compromises.

As yet the working party has not plumped for one or other of the schemes.

Several members feel that the best thing would be to indicate the sort of incomes policy the SDP would be prepared to introduce and leave the details for an Alliance government to discuss with the trades unions. There is certainly a consensus that a national "social contract" approach, in which the union dictate the terms on which they will recommend pay restraint to their members, is the way forward.

Similarly the group agrees with the general notion that the pound needs to fall from present levels and be held at a stable competitive level. But not all its members are as enthusiastic as Mr Jenkins about committing the SDP to joining the European Monetary System EMS as a way of achieving this exchange rate objective. As president of the European Commission he was one of its instigators.

Further meetings will discuss incomes policy (again), how to

improve the supply side of the economy, reforms in the labour market and trade policy. Professor Alan Budd of the London Business School, an SDP sympathiser though not a member, is contributing a paper for the supply side discussion on factors inhibiting output growth, including tax and social security rules, lack of labour mobility and so on.

But it is perhaps a reflection of the uneasy relationship the SDP has with the unions that the author of the paper on labour market reform insists on anonymity.

The Working Party is obliged to produce a discussion document on SDP economic policy about Easter, though it is by no means clear how comprehensive or detailed this will be. Its recommendations will go out to SDP branches around the country for debate before they are formally adopted or rejected when the 400-strong Council for Social Democracy is convened in October.

The working party will stay in being, however, to revise and extend SDP policy as the economy changes. The high degree of consensus achieved by the group so far disguises some fundamental differences of outlook which are likely to surface once it is forced to go into details.

For a start, members are not agreed on how much detail the policy documents should carry. Some point out that it makes little sense to make commitments now, say to an inflation tax or to the EMS, when circumstances two years hence may be very different. Others feel that the SDP will lack credibility unless it demonstrates that it has thought through policies thoroughly.

Some members are more in favour of intervention and planning than others, though this debate will probably loom larger outside the working party, given the numbers of old style "corporatists" who have defected from Labour ranks.

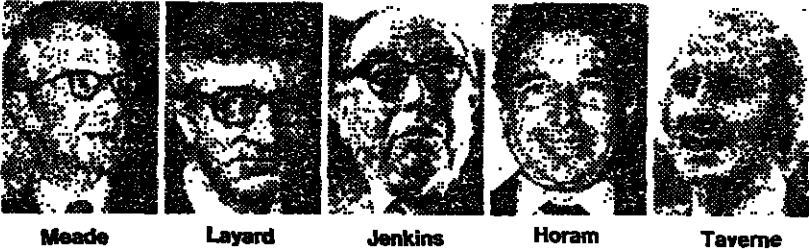
Group members also vary in the emphasis they place on the need for greater equality and social justice, and the extent to which they think this can be dealt with separately from economic policies for wealth creation through the tax and social security system.

It is most unlikely that these differences will be thoroughly aired, let alone resolved, before Easter. So what can we expect from the group's first discussion document? It will almost certainly want to indicate what the SDP would do in practice.

On the basis of discussions so far this would suggest reflation of demand by between £5,000 million and £6,000 million. This would include a cut in the National Insurance Surcharge, extra public investment and higher personal tax allowances, lower interest rates to encourage depreciation of sterling, prior to joining the EMS, and the initiation of discussions with unions and employers on the introduction of a decentralised incomes policy, with the Layard scheme the front runner.

And the document will probably include some general statements about the principles on which SDP policy will be based. "More market-oriented than Labour, more pragmatic and egalitarian than the Tories" is how Dick Taverne puts it. The "New Keynesians" led by Professor Meade, have found their political niche.

THE SDP'S POLICY-MAKERS



Meade Layard Jenkins Horam Taverne

David Owen MP: SDP foreign affairs spokesman. Former Foreign Secretary and Health Minister

Dick Taverne: Director of Institute of Fiscal Studies. Former Treasury minister

Professor Robin Matthews: Master of Clare College, Cambridge. Chairman of Bank of England's academic advisory panel

Professor James Meade: 1977 Nobel Prize-winner. Cambridge University

Professor Marcus Miller: Warwick University. Member of Treasury's academic advisory panel

Dr Terry Barker: Senior research officer in the Department of Applied Economics at Cambridge, and Chairman of Cambridge Econometrics, the forecasting group

Ben Stoneham: Education officer for National Union of Railwaymen

John Horam MP: (Vice-Chairman). Parliamentary economics spokesman. Former Transport minister and ex-journalist

Mike Thomas MP: SDP spokesman on health and social security. Chairman of policy committee on health and social services

Matthew Oakeshott: Former special adviser to Roy Jenkins when Chancellor. Now works for Courtaulds

Adair Turner: Former Conservative student leader. Now works for Chase Manhattan Bank

Sound idea from the schoolroom

TECHNOLOGY: INVENTORS

By Pearce Wright



Nadeem Saddiqui — busy on the breadboards

The first production model of a hand-held electronic instrument for the remote control of domestic appliances or industrial equipment was unveiled yesterday.

The device is a novel idea which relies on ultrasonics (high frequency sound waves) rather than radio or infra red beams to change the controls on a television set, to operate automatically the keys of a typewriter or the motor of a lathe, or a host of other actions.

Another fascinating aspect of this innovation is that its inventor is a 15-year-old schoolboy. The device made by Nadeem Siddiqui in the engineering and technology department of Wymondham College, Norfolk, has been taken up by a firm of electronic engineers, P.C.D., of Farnborough, Hampshire, for commercial exploitation.

Moreover, he has exploited the most recent developments in microelectronics technology to perfect his idea. But the enterprise began last summer when Nadeem had to offer an original project as part of his engineering design course at Wymondham, the first state run co-educational boarding school to be established in Britain.

As it was the Year of the Disabled, he drew up a list of possible innovations based on electronic aids which might

contribute to the mobility of handicapped people or enable a bedridden person to operate electrical appliances, to open doors and to operate telephones. That narrowed the options to some form of remote control system.

He thought high frequency waves, which cannot be heard by humans, would be better than using a system based on light. As sound waves can bounce off walls, they are an advantage in the house. More important, ultrasonics are not susceptible to sudden changes of light intensity.

Initially Nadeem considered a device which would operate just one piece of equipment at a time. But he says: "I felt that a single channel equipment was beneath my capabilities, so I raised my sights to designing a multiple channel system; such a channel would be much more useful because it would enable the disabled person to control many appliances in his or her home both easily and quickly."

Fortunately he is at a school with a well equipped engineering department. He had the use of special equipment, or "breadboards", on which experimental electronic circuits can be assembled and dismantled repeatedly until the engineer is satisfied with a design. The next stage in the battle is to transfer the circuit design from its experimental state where it is packed neatly into an attractive package, at the same time still providing reliability and the same characteristics as on the workbench.

Nadeem's system comprises of a hand-held transmitter resembling an electronic calculator and a receiver about the size of a shoe box. The various electrical appliances or machines to be controlled are plugged into the receiver, and a person can operate up to 10 of them, depending on how he or she presses the buttons on the transmitter.

Doctors and physiotherapists of the Norfolk Area Health Authority, who tested the apparatus, have plans to use the device in hospitals and homes. Commercial versions of the equipment will cost about £300, and Nadeem gets £8 for each model sold under a five-year contract he negotiated with the manufacturer.

The development of engineering at Wymondham is itself a remarkable story, and Mr David Goman, head of engineering and technology, believes the college has for several years supplied the greatest number of candidates for Cambridge board O-level and A-level examinations in engineering design and in electronics and electronics. A former aeronautical engineer, Mr Goman says that when he was recruited to create an engineering department at the planning stage of Wymondham there was a complete absence of engineering bias in secondary education throughout Britain.

Business Editor

European rates start to fall

Conspiracy, concerted action, call it what you will: the fact remains that the evidence is becoming clearer every day that the leading European countries are moving to lower the cost of money. Real interest rates are cripplingly high for this point in the recession — to the word obviously whistling down the corridors of power that if something is not done, you can forget any significant economic recovery this year.

The big question mark in all this, of course, hangs over the role of the United States and, in particular, of the Federal Reserve. The hope, of course, is that the recession in the United States will steadily pull dollar interest rates downwards over the first few months of this year; in that case, all Western interest rates could come down in line without causing major shifts in relative currency parities.

There is certainly no consensus view that dollar interest rates will obligate, however. Even though the United States Administration may desperately want to see American interest rates fall, that does not mean that Fed will automatically allow it. Recent US money supply statistics have not been good and the signs point — if anything — to the Fed taking a firm line on interest rates.

That said, arguments that the Fed is taking too short term view of the monetary statistics, particularly in view of the changing structure of the United States financial system, may start to make an impression. Additionally, there must be reluctance to see the dollar, already considered overvalued, appreciate further.

Whether or not, then, one is talking about concerted action including the United States, there remain potential pitfalls to any sustained decline in American rates. And while that is the case, the European countries will be left with the prospect of having to judge the appropriate trade-off between interest rate cuts and the exchange rate (or intervention) implications.

What is interesting is the European emphasis on the need for lower interest rates rather than fiscal expansion as the way to get economies moving. Are we hearing the theme of the Chancellor's Budget statement in advance?

In the run-up to last year's Budget the Chancellor added a new revenue proposition that revenue duties on our favourite vices — tobacco and drink — should be raised in line with indexation for inflation over the previous six years. In the event both beer and tobacco were virtually fully indexed. But wine went up only 12p a bottle when it might have risen 39p, getting off lightly because EEC pressures to harmonize relative duties on wine and beer. And whisky, which would have risen £2.25 a bottle on full indexation, went up 60p.

That does not necessarily mean that there is time for the biggest proportional rise this time round. For a start, the Treasury is clearly worried that big duty increases, particularly on drinks and cigarettes, could endanger the Government's inflation strategy.

Moreover, with whisky sales down more than 10 per cent this past year and other spirits hit — beer and cigarette sales too have been weak — there is also the question of how far the Government would swell the tax revenue shortfall there has already been. One estimate is that the shortfall over the past two years will prove to be around £800m.

Licensed dealers

Legislation time

The Department of Trade has produced excellent draft proposals for imposing strict controls over licensed dealers in securities. With only a little revision they could be used as new primary legislation to replace the outdated Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act. And after the collapse last month of yet another investment manager, commodity broker M L Duxford, the Government has no excuse for postponing legislation any longer.

The controls which the Department of Trade seeks to exercise over licensed dealers could, without much difficulty, be extended to cover all investment managers, acting either as principals or as agents for money from the public.

The main proposals cover two basic points — the separation of clients' money from that of the investment

manager, and the provision of fidelity and indemnity insurance to protect clients in the event of default.

Clients' cash balances would have to be held in a bank trust account. This would prevent the sort of "situation which developed on the liquidation of Norton Warburg where clients' funds had been paid into the company's own account and therefore became due to the preferential and secured creditors, rather than to the clients."

The new draft proposals intend to make professional indemnity and fidelity insurance (or some similar arrangement for compensation) a pre-requisite of obtaining a licence to deal in securities. Certification by an independent account of these insurance arrangements will also be required.

Licence application procedures are to be tightened up considerably and much more detail concerning an applicant's background will be required.

Once in business the company will have to submit detailed six-monthly returns to the Department of Trade — these again go to be verified by an independent accountant.

This exercise by the Department of Trade has necessarily confined itself to proposals which could be effected by statutory instrument within the department's existing powers. But Professor Laurence Power is due to report on the much wider subject of investor protection and a new PFI Act next Tuesday when he publishes a discussion document. Much of his work has been done for him by those at the Department of Trade who drafted the proposals for new licensed dealer regulations. They are clear, simple, easy to administer and cheap to implement, and could, without much difficulty, be extended to cover all investment advisers.

TRANSVAAL GOLD MINING COMPANIES

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ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION

FINAL DIVIDENDS — FINANCIAL YEARS

ENDED DECEMBER 31 1981

On January 21 1982 dividends were declared in South African currency, payable to members registered in the books of the undermentioned companies at the close of business on February 12 1982, and to persons lodging their share warrants to bearer and shares issued by The South African Land & Exploration Company Limited at the office of the United Kingdom transfer secretaries, Chartered Consolidated P.L.C., P.O. Box 102, Charter House, Strand, Ashford, Kent TN24 8EQ.

The transfer registers and registers of members will be closed in each case from February 13 to 28 1982, both days inclusive, and warrants will be posted from the Johannesburg and United Kingdom offices of the transfer secretaries on or about March 11 1982. Registered members paid from the United Kingdom should receive the United Kingdom currency equivalent on February 15 1982 of the rand value of their dividends (less appropriate taxes). Any such members may, however, elect to be paid in South African currency, provided that the request is received at the offices of the transfer secretaries in Johannesburg or in the United Kingdom on or before February 12 1982.

The effective rate of non-resident shareholders' tax for the undermentioned companies is 15 per cent.

The dividends are payable subject to conditions which can be inspected at the head and London offices of the companies and also at the offices of the companies' transfer secretaries in Johannesburg and the United Kingdom.

Name of company (each of which is incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)	Dividend No	Rate of dividend per share
The South African Land & Exploration Company Limited	81	25 cents
Valley Fields Exploration and Mining Company Limited	51	530 cents
Western Deep Levels Limited	40	205 cents
East Daggalfontein Mines Limited		

The directors of East Daggalfontein Mines Limited have decided not to declare a dividend in respect of the year ended December 31 1981.

By order of the boards

Office of the United Kingdom Transfer Secretaries: Chartered Consolidated P.L.C., P.O. Box 102, Charter House, Park Street, Ashford, Kent TN24 8EQ

Divisional Secretary: 40 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1P 1AJ

Johannesburg January 22 1982



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CHARING CROSS
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THE
MOTOR
CARRIAGE
GEORGE & SONS
MANCHESTER

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davalle

BBC 1

9.00 For Schools. The subjects are Biology (fertilization), Better badminton, Look and Read, (The Boy from Space, It's Maths, Maths File, 12.30 News Afternoon with Richard Williams and Moira Stuart; 12.57 Financial Report. And news headlines: 1.00 Pebble Mill at One: Peter Seabrook goes to Leeds to meet some enthusiastic gardeners; 1.45 Baggins; 2.02 For Schools and Colleges: The subjects this afternoon are Science (The Kids are OK-2), and A Good Job with Friends; 3.00 Closedown; 3.30 Pebble Mill at One: serial in Welsh. This episode one; 3.55 Play School: See BBC 2 at 11.00 for details.

BBC 2

11.00 Play School: The story is Snow, written by Roy McKie and P. D. Eastman; Closedown at 11.25. 3.55 Around with Allis: Lord Scanton chews, and plays golf with Peter Allis.

ITV/LONDON

9.30 For Schools. The subjects: Reading with Lenny, How we Used to Live, Maths, Physics, Geography, Alive and Kicking, Paper Production, Documentary Re-Run; 11.55 Comic Stories; 12.00 A Handful of Songs; 12.10 Once Upon a Time: Brer Rabbit and the Wolf; 12.30 Simply Sewing: Interview with Billie Figg, of Women magazine; 1.00 News; 1.20 Thames News; 1.30 Take the Road: Scottish estate serial; 2.00 After Noon Plus: Interview with Chief Scout-designate Major General Michael Welch, and former Scouts Lionel Jeffries and Sir George Stanger; 2.45 Film: Young and Innocent (1937) Early Hitchcock thriller, made in England, about a man on the run from a murder he did not commit. Starring Nova Pilbeam and Derrick De Marney.

Radio 4

6.00 News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.30 Today. 6.55 Yearly Review in Parliament. 7.00 News. 7.05 Desert Island Discs. Castaway: Frankie Howard. 8.45 Ebon's England (last in series) John Ebon offers some oblique reflections on the English. 10.00 News. 10.05 International Assignment. 10.30 Daily Service. 11.05 Morning Story: "Old Tidings" by Graham Edwards. 11.05 Great Families of Britain. A new series of radio portraits by Alison Snowden. (1) The House of Woburn. 11.50 Bird of the Week: The Dumbuck. 12.00 News. 12.05 You and Yours. 12.27 My World Panel Game. 12.57 News. 1.00 Book at Bedtime: "The Archers." 2.00 News. 2.02 Woman's Hour. 2.05 News. 2.32 "Daddy Good" by Allen Sedgwick. 4.05 Report South West. 4.10 Modern Russian Writers (last in series) Solzhenitsyn - Writer or Prophet? 4.45 Story line: "A Flower Piece" by H. E. Bates. 5.00 News. 5.55 Weather. 6.00 News. Financial Report. 6.30 Going Places Goes West. 7.00 News. 7.05 The Archers. 7.20 Pick of the Week. 7.30-7.45 A personal portrait. 7.55 Any Questions? 8.15 Letter from America. 8.30 Kaleidoscope. 8.55 Weather. 10.00 The World Tonight. 11.00 News. 11.05 "Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man" by James Joyce (5).

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News. 7.05 Morning Concert: Vivaldi, Beethoven, Bartok; records. 8.00 News. 8.05 Morning Concert (continued) Borcia, Debussy; records. 9.00 News. 9.05 This Week's Composer Haydn: records. 10.00 News and Then Recital: Mozart, Janet Graham, Mozart, Nicholas Maw. 11.15 Schumann and Liszt Piano recital. 12.15 Midday Concert direct from the Henry Wood Hall, London. Part 1: Mussorgsky, Prokofiev. Part 2: Debussy.

Radio 2

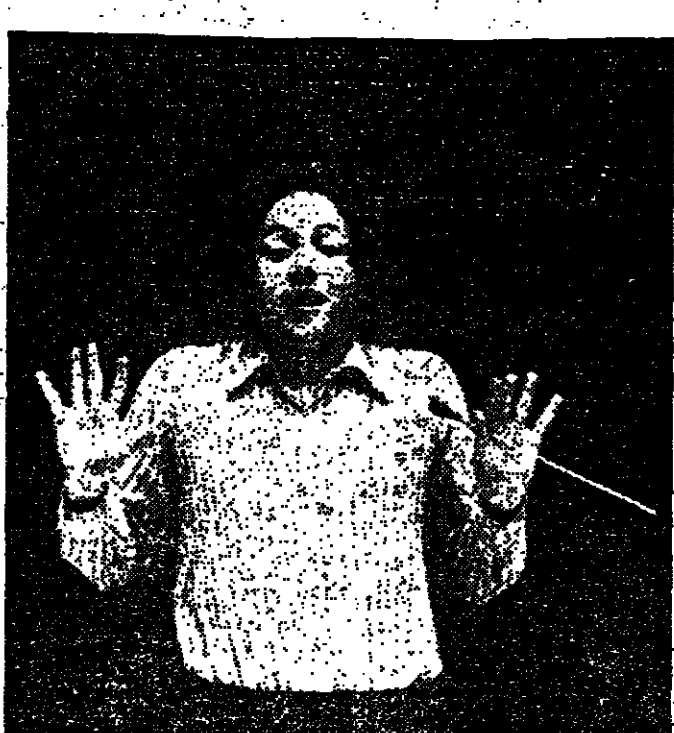
6.50 Steve Jones. 7.30 Terry Wogan. 7.50 Jimmy Young. 10.00 Jimmy Young. 10.20 Gloria Humphord. 12.00 Ed Stewart. 1.00 David Hamilton. 2.45 News. 3.00 John Dunn. 3.05 Friday Night is Music Night. 10.00 Anything for a Laugh (new series). 11.00 Brian Matthew. 11.15 from mid-night.

Radio 1

5.00 As Radio 2. 7.00 Mike Read. 11.00 Simon Bates. 11.30 Dave Lee Travis. 2.00 Paul Burnett. 2.30 Steve Wright. 3.30 Newsbeat. 5.45 Roundabout. 7.00 Andy Peebles. 10.00 The Friday Rock Show.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave (549 kHz) at the following times (GMT): 6.00am Newsday. 7.00 World News. 7.05 Twenty-Four Hour News. 11.00am News. 11.05 Backstage. 7.45 Morning News. 8.00am News. 8.05 Newsday. 8.15 Newsday. 8.20 Newsday. 8.25 Newsday. 8.30 Newsday. 8.35 Newsday. 8.40 Newsday. 8.45 Newsday. 8.50 Newsday. 8.55 Newsday. 9.00 Newsday. 9.05 Newsday. 9.10 Newsday. 9.15 Newsday. 9.20 Newsday. 9.25 Newsday. 9.30 Newsday. 9.35 Newsday. 9.40 Newsday. 9.45 Newsday. 9.50 Newsday. 9.55 Newsday. 10.00 Newsday. 10.05 Newsday. 10.10 Newsday. 10.15 Newsday. 10.20 Newsday. 10.25 Newsday. 10.30 Newsday. 10.35 Newsday. 10.40 Newsday. 10.45 Newsday. 10.50 Newsday. 10.55 Newsday. 11.00 Newsday. 11.05 Newsday. 11.10 Newsday. 11.15 Newsday. 11.20 Newsday. 11.25 Newsday. 11.30 Newsday. 11.35 Newsday. 11.40 Newsday. 11.45 Newsday. 11.50 Newsday. 11.55 Newsday. 12.00 Newsday. 12.05 Newsday. 12.10 Newsday. 12.15 Newsday. 12.20 Newsday. 12.25 Newsday. 12.30 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and one each from Japan, France, Italy, Poland and West Germany. Yoshikazu Tanaka from Japan won a special award of £500 from the judges in the finals, at the Fairfield Halls, Croydon.

Land's End bought by British businessman

By Baron Phillips

The battle for one of Britain's most famous beauty and tourist spots is over. Land's End has finally been acquired by David Goldstone for more than £175m, the original asking price for the headland.

The sale of Land's End has excited public interest. It began four months ago, when it was hinted that Mr Charles Neave-Hill, the owner, and fourteenth Master of Land's End, was seeking a buyer for the 405-acre estate. At the time it was thought the estate would be purchased by a foreigner, probably an American, and rumour had it that the sale price was as much as \$330m (£15.7m).

In November, the estate finally came onto the market at about £175m, attracting considerable interest from buyers both here and abroad. One particularly keen party was the National Trust which made a late bid thought to be £125m.

Apart from the obvious tourist attractions—there are one million visitors a year—Land's End also boasts a main house, several other houses and cottages along with the famous First and Last Inn. At the moment it is run strictly as a commercial operation with a current revenue of £500,000 a year.

Mr Goldstone, the new owner, is keen to allay the fears of conservationists that the beauty spot would be turned into a cheap, money-spinning tourist trap. He said in a statement last night: "We fully appreciate that we have achieved the acquisition of not only a remarkable investment opportunity but also a unique part of the nation's heritage and folklore and our approach to its preservation. The investment opportunity will always have due regard to this latter fact".

A spokesman from Humberston Land Plan, the chartered surveyors and land agents who acted on behalf of Mr Neave-Hill, refused to give an exact sale figure, which is thought to be around the £2m mark.

Mr Neave-Hill, who is out of the country, said in a statement last night: "I and my family are sad to leave Land's End after so many generations have lived there but I am confident the new owner will improve the facilities".

Today's events

Travel

Rail

A few early cancellations because of Aslef strike yesterday and Wednesday, but on Inter-City and regional routes, 90 per cent services expected; 80 to 90 per cent commuter services between London and South-east.

NUR guards' dispute may cause disruption on Ipswich Midland

ACROSS

1 A guy in a field? (9).
2 Oaks here in Surrey of course (5).
3 No knock-kneed player? (7).
10 Miniature model capital half destroyed by an ancient one (7).
11 Sense of position, say (5).
12 Make denial concerning my rudding diet (9).
13 A 19c evil product of a mad scientist (8).
15 A modern highwayman may need it to count the silver (6-3).
17 A flower not connected with a contract (11).
18 see 14 over.
20 Like a haggis or its jazzed-up accompaniment? (6,3).

6 As did Barker's 3 with the tide (5).
7 Tasty item in the seraglio? (7).
8 What do many in Church team, restructured, make of the opposition? (9).
9 These times not recorded - short price I made (11).
14 It can record a kind of game score (4-5).
16 The labour union heads in deep trouble, lots of it (9).
18 After work I was put in Peter, a townsmab? (7).
19 Roman one Byron's gladiator helped to make? (7).
21 Nothing in leading feature gives critical's fate (5).
23 Would, say you, we get sugar from it? (5).
25 Silver setting for Gaunt's

Solution of Puzzle No 15,735.

DOWN.

- 1 Diemisses part of the wind section, we hear (5)
- 2 Stated that member entered into dubious deal (7).
- 3 That's Life! (9).
- 4 Lucifer thus ordered back in sporting revenge? (6,5).
- 5 Penelope's work never finished (3).

Travel

Rail

A few early cancellations because of Aslef strike yesterday and Wednesday, but on Inter-City and regional routes, 90 per cent services expected; 80 to 90 per cent commuter services between London and South-east.

NUR guards' dispute may cause disruption on Ipswich Midland

Scottish Chamber Orchestra
Music Hall, Aberdeen, 7.30.

Sporting fixtures

Football: Fourth division
Hullfax Town v Port Vale, 7.30.
Rugby Union: Aberavon v
Newport, 7.30.

Athletics: Philips Cusford
Games, at RAF Cusford, 7.

Hockey: Women's territorial
match: West v East, at Cheltenham, 2.15.

Badminton: Scottish open
championships, at Edinburgh.

silver and plate, 9 to 4. Christie's South Kensington: old and modern silver
English and Continental water-
colours and drawings; Oriental
ceramics; all 9.15 to 4.30. Phillips
lips, Blenheim Street: silver 9
10.30; all paintings; jewels; fur-
niture, carpets and objects, all 9
to 4.30. Sotheby's, Bond Street
Russian works of art; netsuke

Continuous (9.30): Private Members' Bills, Supply of Goods and Services, Trade Descriptions (Amendment) Bill and other Bills in second readings.

The papers

On the miners' decision not to strike, the *Daily Mirror* says this shows Scargill confused two objectives: getting more money for his members and bringing down the Government: he was elected to do the first, not the second.

The miners have shown they are not interested in purely political strikes, the *Daily Mail* says. "They have taken a clear-sighted view of their interests and

Anniversaries

Births : Francis Bacon, London, 1561; Gotthold Lessing, Kamen, 1729; George Bernard Shaw, London, 1856; August Strindberg, Stockholm, 1849; Beatrice Webb, Studish House, near Gloucester.

Top box office films

The top 10 films in London:
 1 Arthur
 2 Rich and Famous
 3 Gallipoli
 4 The French Lieutenant's Woman
 5 Christians F
 6 Lady Chatterley's Lover
 7 Eyes on the Needle
 8 An American Werewolf in London
 9 Monty Python's Life of Brian
 10 Airplane!

The electric slip—the movie
 10 Electric Blue—the Movie

The top five in the provinces:
 1 Arthur
 2 Dead and Buried
 3 Torn Between Two Lovers
 4 Lady Chatterley's Lover
 5 Diamonds

Compiled by Screen International

[illegible]

Food prices

Beef and lamb prices have risen again this week, while pork prices show varying trends. Whole carcasses are from 85p to £1.18 a pound.

With better weather, prices for vegetables are much cheaper. Carbage, onions, carrots, parsnips, swedes, turnips, green peppers and red potatoes are good value. Marmalade oranges are good value. Best now, and other good buys are pears, saskwons, grapefruit; small Santa R plums, at 35p to 40p a pound are excellent value.

Australia	1.77	36
Austria Sch	32.00	8
Bangkok	85.65	8
Brazzaville Fr	11.50	13
France DM	4.53	4
Greece Dr	128.00	119
Hong Kong	11.40	10
Italy Lit	2460.00	2360
Japan Yen	450.00	424
Netherlands Gld	4.95	4
South Africa R	2.03	1
Spain Ptas	194.00	183
Sweden Kr	11.04	10
Switzerland Fr	3.65	3
USA \$	1.94	1
Yugoslav Dnr	98.00	91

Notes: ex-ante, as supplied; destination.

Weather

Trough of low pressure clearing eastwards; weak ridge of high pressure will build over British Isles.

6 am to midnight

[illegible]

Lighting up time

London 5.02 pm to 7.22 am
 Bristol 5.12 pm to 7.32 am
 Edinburgh 4.54 pm to 7.54 am
 Manchester 5.02 pm to 7.38 am
 Newcastle 5.29 pm to 7.38 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; s, sun; sh, showers.

	C	F		C	F
Belfast	c	7	Glasgow	s	6
Birmingham	c	9	Liverpool	s	6
Blackpool	c	9	Manchester	s	6
Bristol	f	10	Newcastle	s	8
Cardiff	c	9	Nottingham	s	10
Edinburgh	c	8	Sheffield	s	6
Glasgow	f	8	Southampton	s	6

Satellite predictions

Figures give time of visibility, where rising, maximum elevation, and direction of satellite track; dashes indicate no rising or leaving visible.

18.17-18.23	MANWORTH	Coosus	SE ¹	18.17-18.23	MANWORTH	Coosus	SE ¹	18.17-18.23	MANWORTH	Coosus	SE ¹
19.57-19.58	WV	20 WSW	WSW	19.57-19.58	WV	20 WSW	WSW	19.57-19.58	WV	20 WSW	WSW
21.21-21.23	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.21-21.23	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.21-21.23	WV	20 WSW	WSW
21.23-21.25	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.23-21.25	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.23-21.25	WV	20 WSW	WSW
21.25-21.27	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.25-21.27	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.25-21.27	WV	20 WSW	WSW
21.27-21.29	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.27-21.29	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.27-21.29	WV	20 WSW	WSW
21.29-21.31	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.29-21.31	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.29-21.31	WV	20 WSW	WSW
21.31-21.33	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.31-21.33	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.31-21.33	WV	20 WSW	WSW
21.33-21.35	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.33-21.35	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.33-21.35	WV	20 WSW	WSW
21.35-21.37	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.35-21.37	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.35-21.37	WV	20 WSW	WSW
21.37-21.39	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.37-21.39	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.37-21.39	WV	20 WSW	WSW
21.39-21.41	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.39-21.41	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.39-21.41	WV	20 WSW	WSW
21.41-21.43	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.41-21.43	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.41-21.43	WV	20 WSW	WSW
21.43-21.45	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.43-21.45	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.43-21.45	WV	20 WSW	WSW
21.45-21.47	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.45-21.47	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.45-21.47	WV	20 WSW	WSW
21.47-21.49	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.47-21.49	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.47-21.49	WV	20 WSW	WSW
21.49-21.51	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.49-21.51	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.49-21.51	WV	20 WSW	WSW
21.51-21.53	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.51-21.53	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.51-21.53	WV	20 WSW	WSW
21.53-21.55	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.53-21.55	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.53-21.55	WV	20 WSW	WSW
21.55-21.57	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.55-21.57	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.55-21.57	WV	20 WSW	WSW
21.57-21.59	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.57-21.59	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.57-21.59	WV	20 WSW	WSW
21.59-22.01	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.59-22.01	WV	20 WSW	WSW	21.59-22.01	WV	20 WSW	WSW
22.01-22.03	WV	20 WSW	WSW	22.01-22.03	WV	20 WSW	WSW	22.01-22.03	WV	20 WSW	WSW
22.03-22.05	WV	20 WSW	WSW	22.03-22.05	WV	20 WSW	WSW	22.03-22.05	WV	20 WSW	WSW
22.05-22.07	WV	20 WSW	WSW	22.05-22.07	WV	20 WSW	WSW	22.05-22.07	WV	20 WSW	WSW
22.07-22.09	WV	20 WSW	WSW	22.07-22.09	WV	20 WSW	WSW	22.07-22.09	WV	20 WSW	WSW
22.09-22.11	WV	20 WSW	WSW	22.09-22.11	WV	20 WSW	WSW	22.09-22.11	WV	20 WSW	WSW
22.11-22.13	WV	20 WSW	WSW	22.11-22.13	WV	20 WSW	WSW	22.11-22.13	WV	20 WSW	WSW
22.13-22.15	WV	20 WSW	WSW	22.13-22.15	WV	20 WSW	WSW	22.13-22.15	WV	20 WSW	WSW
22.15-22.17	WV	20 WSW	WSW	22.15-22.17	WV	20 WSW	WSW	22.15-22.17	WV	20 WSW	WSW
22.17-22.19	WV	20 WSW	WSW	22.17-22.19	WV	20 WSW	WSW	22.17-22.19	WV	20 WSW	WSW
22.19-22.21	WV	20 WSW	WSW	22.19-22.21	WV	20 WSW	WSW	22.19-22.21	WV	20 WSW	WSW
22.21-22.23	WV	20 WSW	WSW	22.21-22.23	WV	20 WSW	WSW	22.21-22.23	WV	20 WSW	WSW
22.23-22.25	WV	20 WSW	WSW								

There seems to come a stage when any Government of any Ministry's entire reputation is delivered into the hands of petty functionaries all over the country who get into the wrong decisions which generate uproar. For this Government that stage appeared to have arrived in the Commons yesterday.

Proceedings were dominated by 45 minutes of mass hysteria which was the highlight of Fairbairn, the Scottish Solicitor General. The subject, according to the contemporary fashion, was rape. Rapists are single-handedly doing for the Government what spies do for the enemy. The Tories jeeringly did for the Macmillan regime. Having fearlessly addressed itself to the subject earlier in the week, the Government had intended yesterday to look the Fairbairn Rape Storm courageously in the face, and change the subject, impossible.

But, first, those signs that we have reached the traditional time for events to slip out of control. At 11.45 a Tory backbencher, Mr Greenway, suddenly produced some preposterous magistrate in Islington who had apparently told a teacher, who had wanted action against a 12 stone black woman parent who had assaulted her, that she must be prepared to be hit perhaps six times more during her teaching career. Here was a classic mid-term potential uproar: holding out a prospect of endless denials, Mrs Thatcher responded, at this early point in this particular session, saying she found the magistrate's reported remarks "utterly astonishing". Actually, for mid-term in a Parliament, they were par for the course. The Lord Chief Justice's Department was "trying to find out what was said," she added. Mr John Grant, the Social Democrat, carried it nicely along by demanding an inquiry into the rulings of that particular Islington court in general. It was an odd sort of thing for us to have said.

Welsh Nationalist, Mr Dafydd Wigley, confronted the Prime Minister with two men seen driving "in a Home Office listed car" away from a public telephone kiosk after having bugged it (yes, after having bugged, unbelieved, the kiosk).

Poor Mrs Thatcher's eyes

must have glazed over with mid-term despair. What a tangle, deep in the bowels of the Home Office security services, could have taken it upon themselves to bug a Welsh telephone kiosk she must have pondered. Wearily, she confined herself to saying that she could not discuss security matters.

Finally, Mr Fairbairn. Three Glasgow youths allegedly committed rape without being prosecuted. There was vast confusion over whether the woman was prepared to give evidence. A sub-plot, Mr Fairbairn was given explanations to press in advance of the Commons. In a sub-plot, one of Labour Members, particularly Scottish, dislike Mr Fairbairn.

He crowded Labour benches.

It was a cruel scene. There is no need to sentimentalise Mr Fairbairn. Had he been in Opposition, he would have taken it just as brutal.

Somehow someone has taken a decision not to prosecute and now Mr Fairbairn was responsible. Suffice to say that at no point did the enemies prove scandal. If it been there, scandal, if it been there, it got off, might have been different. But it was likely that the Scottish Establishment was covering up for three Glasgow yobboes?

There were inconsistency and slips in Mr Fairbairn's performance. There always are in these uproars. Assault with grotesque question, especially from some of the enraged Labour women of about such matters as to precise what was said. The victim, he fonged tenaciously. Towards the end of his ordeal, he was helped by the House disintegrating into laughter when the Tory Mr Geoffrey Dickens—he the Geoffries—asked the Solicitor General to allow still more time for questioning was added: "I am seeking to a favour for every woman in the kingdom."

Perhaps ominously for Mr Fairbairn, Mrs Thatcher's parliamentary colleagues were not so sure through it as she. But an uproar can be decisive. Not every Member shares the dark loathings in his own side on these occasions. As he passed behind the Speaker's Chair the stentorian and thalassocratic voice of Mr Bidwell, a Labour, lewinger.

H

	AM	HT	FW
London Bridge			12:17
Abbeville	11:50	3.8	5.44
Alenquer	5:22	11.4	9.43
Beaufort	9:32	3.1	9.43
Conist	5:09	10.5	9.42
Dreux	9:27	4.6	9.55
Dover	9:27	5.8	9.55
Palmerston	3:20	4.7	9.58
St. Helier	11:50	11.8	11.58
Harwich	10:09	3.5	10.30
Harford	8:47	4.9	9.30
Harford	4:43	4.6	9.30
Hilfarnham	4:10	7.8	1.23
Leith	12:41	4.7	1.23
Lerpel	7:41	2.2	8.11
Loversfort	7:41	2.2	8.11
Margate	10:21	4.1	10.46
North Haven	4:31	5.9	9.52
Orkney	4:31	5.9	9.52
Oslo	4:15	3.4	9.45
Pasadena	2:54	4.6	9.45
Portland	4:42	4.2	10.03
Portsmouth	4:42	4.2	10.19
Sturtevant	9:26	5.3	9.52
Swansea	9:14	4.7	9.47
Swansea	8:11	8.1	8.21

periodical
Tide measurement

Around Britain					
	Sun hrs	Rain in C	Max F	Wx	
Falmouth	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Plymouth	0.3	—	11	48	Cloudy
Penzance	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Exeter	3.6	0.03	11	52	Cloudy
London	0.5	—	11	52	Cloudy
Manchester	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Nottingham	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Leeds	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Sheffield	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Cardiff	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Belfast	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Edinburgh	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Glasgow	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Newcastle	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Liverpool	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Manchester	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Nottingham	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Leeds	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Sheffield	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Cardiff	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Belfast	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Edinburgh	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Glasgow	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Newcastle	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Liverpool	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Manchester	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Nottingham	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Leeds	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Sheffield	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Cardiff	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Belfast	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Edinburgh	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Glasgow	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Newcastle	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Liverpool	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Manchester	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Nottingham	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Leeds	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Sheffield	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Cardiff	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Belfast	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Edinburgh	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Glasgow	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Newcastle	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Liverpool	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Manchester	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Nottingham	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Leeds	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Sheffield	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Cardiff	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Belfast	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Edinburgh	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Glasgow	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Newcastle	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Liverpool	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Manchester	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Nottingham	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Leeds	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Sheffield	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Cardiff	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Belfast	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Edinburgh	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Glasgow	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Newcastle	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Liverpool	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Manchester	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Nottingham	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Leeds	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Sheffield	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Cardiff	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Belfast	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Edinburgh	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Glasgow	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Newcastle	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Liverpool	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Manchester	—	—	11	52	

cloudy	Kloss	0.3
cloudy	Dyce	3.2
..	Leuchars	3.1

Aboard

fy, fog; r, rain; s, sun; h, snow; th, thunder.

C	F	C	F	C	F
0 32	Las Palmas	c 19 66	Raykjavik	r	4
-3 27	Lisbon	fg 11 52	Rosend	c	14
13 55	Luxemb	c 20 36	Riyadh	c	17
9 48	Luxembourg	r -1 30	Rome	c	16
13 50	Madrid	r 3 46	Saltzbur	s	8
15 59	Majorca	c 12 54	Stockholm	c	-1
8 46	Malaga	s 16 61	Strasbourg	c	-3
-4 25	Marseille	c 34 57	Tampere	c	15
18 64	Milan	fg -3 30	Tenerife	c	10
12 36	Moscow	s -4 38	Tokyo	c	15
12 36	Munich	s -10 14	Yunis	c	17
-2 28	Nairobi	f 26 79	Valencia	c	14
17 63	Naples	s 12 54	Vancouver	c	14